Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-94-150 *4 August 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Early Empowerment Talks Conclude in Cairo

Rothschild Comments

TA0308175594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Major General Dani Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks, told IDF Radio today that the early empowerment talks in Cairo will not be completed in the near future. According to Rothschild, the teams have so far finalized the issue of social welfare and are currently discussing tourism. The more difficult issues such as taxation, however, will continue for a long time. Our Arab affairs correspondent Oren Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] Yasir 'Arafat is in a hurry to start talks on the permanent solution of the Jewrusalem issue. Today he was quoted in HA'ARETZ as saying that the early empowerment talks are a waste of time. At the same time, Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's adviser, issues optimistic statements, claiming that the work of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations on early empowerment in Cairo is almost completed. Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, which have been going on for the last few weeks, recommends against being overly pessimistic or optimistic. According to Rothschild, much more work must be done before the early empowerment agreement is signed:

[Rothschild] We still have to discuss several difficult issues. Therefore, occasional optimistic remarks to the effect that the talks will be completed by next week and we can now turn to the next issue are unwarranted.

[Kohen] According to the Cairo agreement, Israel is slated to transfer to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank the spheres of taxation, education, health, social welfare, and tourism. So far, only the social welfare issue has been finalized, and the sides are currently discussing tourism. The most difficult issue is the form and method of Palestinian taxation and the breakdown of the funds that have been collected into budgets that will enable the autonomy to operate:

[Rothschild] Aside from the issues of social welfare and tourism, some very difficult issues, such as taxation and budgets, are beginning to surface—namely, how to levy taxes and finance the various authorities. We can work out an excellent agreement on paper, but unless there are funds to implement it, it will remain on paper.

[Kohen] Maj. Gen. Rothschild also referred to 'Arafat's claims that Israel is not forwarding to the Palestinian Authority the funds collected from income tax levied on Palestinian workers employed in Israel. According to the agreements, Israel is supposed to transfer 75 percent of these funds to the Palestinians. Two weeks ago, Israel transferred $7 million to the Palestinian Authority. Rothschild clarified that the sums involved are much smaller than the Palestinian estimate:

[Rothschild] 'Arafat's claim that we are talking about hundreds of millions of shekels is simply erroneous. We must remember that the salaries of Palestinians working in Israel are either below the tax threshold or just at the cutoff point. They pay very little taxes, therefore, and only a small amount of funds is involved here.

[Kohen] Today, Israel and the Palestinian Authority established a joint committee for managing the Gaza Strip water resources. The committee, which will begin operating in two weeks, was established in a meeting between Israel Water Commissioner Gid'on Tzur and Riyad al-Khudari, the official in charge of water in the Palestinian autonomy. On the face of it, this is a positive development, but regarding the issue of early empowerment, which is the really important issue, Rothschild refuses to name a target date for completing the talks and signing the agreement:

[Rothschild] We would be ill-advised to determine a timetable, because we may find that we are unable to complete the negotiations on time, and this could create unwarranted difficulties. We must proceed carefully, one stage at a time, and not put the cart before the horse. [end recording]

Sha'th Interviewed on Results

JN0308172894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian National Authority member, in Cairo, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 3 August—recorded; from the "With the Events" program]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, Good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening to you.

[Mu'addi] With the conclusion of another round of negotiations in Cairo, how would you characterize the latest talks?

[Sha'th] We have covered the transfer of powers in the areas of social affairs and services. We are almost finished with tourism, the budget, and financing for early empowerment. Discussion on the devolution of tax collection to us will, God willing—be wrapped up next week.

[Mu'addi] The transfer of power requires huge budgets, something about which the Israeli side is apprehensive. How does the Palestinian authority propose to handle this problem?

[Sha'th] I do not think the Israelis have anything to worry about on this matter. This is because Israel will devolve to us the responsibility for handling expenses and revenues. In other words, responsibility for spending on education, culture, health, social affairs, and tourism

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will devolve to us as will the responsibility for the collection of income and sales taxes. The budget is balanced. Naturally, to begin with, we, and, for that matter, the Israelis expect problems in tax collection. We will probably ask the donor nations to channel their support to the budget, if only for six months, during which time we hope to raise enough taxes for the budget.

[Mu'addi] Is there a need to convene a meeting for the Joint Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee?

[Sha'th] God willing, the committee will convene a week tomorrow [11 August].

[Mu'addi] Have you anything new to report regarding the release of Palestinian detainees and prisoners?

[Sha'th] Minister Shahal and myself had an extremely useful session. He was receptive on two scores. He was of the opinion that the release of prisoners who took part in combat and resistance during occupation is a precondition for the achievement of peace. Both sides are in agreement over this side of the issue. Then there is the humanitarian aspect of the matter. The lives of the detainees in the runup to their release—God willing, in a matter of months—should be made less painful. Shahal accommodated all our demands for better conditions for the detainees and prisoners. He was equally receptive to our demand for the immediate release of some of them, beginning with our sister female detainees in (Talun) Prison. The minister supplied us with a list of 10 Palestinian female political prisoners who will be released within a couple of days, God willing. There is another 100-person list of the sick and elderly, who will be freed in stages. Another 230 detainees, whose release is supposed to have already taken place will be freed soon.

[Mu'addi] Would you comment on Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper that he had proposed and King Husayn agreed to a federation between Jordan and Palestine, with two flags and two capitals?

[Sha'th] I think brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was referring to some time in the past when the issue came up between him and His Majesty King Husayn. We and the Jordanians are due to hold fresh talks on our relations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th in Cairo, thank you so much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Calls For Promised Credits

NC0308180494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—The fourth round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the early transfer of Palestinian national power in the self-rule area concluded in Cairo this afternoon. The Palestinian delegation was headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, and the Israeli delegation by Danny Rothschild, coordinator of the administered territory affairs.

At the end of the session, Dr. Sha'th stated that during this round the two delegations settled the issues related to the early transfer of power in the social affairs department. He said that they also completed discussion of the broad lines of an agreement to transfer power in the tourism sector, noting that the outstanding issues in this area will be completed during the fifth round of talks that will be held in Cairo on Monday [8 August]. He pointed out that during this round, the two parties discussed a paper on general procedures which comprises two issues: the first concerns deploying some Palestinian police force in West Bank cities and the second relates to taxes and budget. He noted that the discussion of this paper will be completed during Monday's session.

Dr. Sha'th called on the donor nations to quickly offer the financial credits they promised to the nascent Palestinian National Authority to help it stand on its feet and perform its tasks in Gaza and Jericho. He went on to say that the Palestinian National Authority needs aid ranging from $25 to $40 million during the next 16 months. It should be recalled that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the early transfer of power reached an agreement during the previous rounds on transferring power in the education and health sectors.

Inter-Arab Affairs

AIPC Head on U.S. 'Collusion' With Israel

MM0208142694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Turabi Calls for Release of Hamas Founder"]

[Text] Khartoum—Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress [AIPC], has uraged the AIPC members, student and youth organizations, and human rights societies to launch a worldwide campaign, including issuing statements, holding seminars, and addressing cables to the UN Security Council members, calling for the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, founder of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Palestine, who has been detained in Israeli prisons for the past five years.

The AIPC, chaired by al-Turabi, issued a statement the day before yesterday in Khartoum calling on Hizballah in Lebanon as well as the other Lebanese forces and the Lebanese Government "to confront the terrorist operations carried out by the Israeli aggressors."

The AIPC blessed "the insistence on resistance and jihad," and condemned the aggressions committed against southern Lebanon and civilians there. The statement said: "It should be emphasized on this occasion

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that the U.S. and international collusion in not condemning the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon, not condemning and maintaining silence about the kidnapping and the shelling, and applying double standards, would only poison the atmosphere and spread terrorism."

The statement also said: "The United States is in collusion with Israel on the latter's aggressions against southern Lebanon."

Movements Reject Accusations of Bombing Involvement

MM0108131894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ilyas Nasrallah]

[Excerpts] London, Gaza, Jerusalem, Beirut, Information Service Center, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The issue of linking terrorism with the Middle East has returned to the forefront of international interest following Israel's threat to retaliate against Hizballah after accusing it of colluding with Iran to carry out the recent bombings in Buenos Aires and London and of preparing for other bombings, and following the accusations leveled by a number of Western capitals at Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has explored the views of a number of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and Hizballah leaders regarding the accusations leveled at them. It has also explored the accusations that Israel planned these bombings.

While those who spoke for Hamas, Hizballah, and the Islamic Jihad expressed their surprise at the accusations leveled at them and at their names being dragged into terrorist operations, Israeli official spokesman Uri Drumi [as transliterated] accused the Iranian Revolutionary Guard of being behind terrorist operations in the world.

Khalid al-Hindi, a Hamas official in Gaza, said: "The movement does not think of carrying out any operations abroad. It believes that the field of its military activities is not outside the occupied territories, but rather, inside the occupied territories only. Interests prompt it to direct its work toward achieving the Islamic and national aims of establishing a Palestinian state and achieving independence."

Al-Hindi stressed: "All resistance activities against the occupation inside the occupied territories are legitimate. Hamas' aims do not include confronting any targets in the West or outside the occupied territories." [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, an Islamic Jihad leader, has denied any involvement by the movement in the bombings. He said that "no Islamic movement has claimed responsibility for them. So we can point the finger of accusation at the Israeli Mosad, because these incidents are aimed at serving the provocative scheme Rabin launched in the United States against Islamic movements in the region."

In Lebanon, a Hizballah source said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's call for isolating Iran economically and defeating Hizballah is not the first. "The United States—specifically Christopher—made the same call during the recent G-7 summit. And naturally Washington puts Hizballah in the forefront whenever it talks about Iran." [passage omitted]

Shaykh Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shiite Council in Lebanon, said: "We view the Israeli threats seriously. We urge our people in the south to be patient." He rejected "accusations leveled at Lebanon and threats made against it," and announced "solidarity with Syria and Iran in their position in the face of these threats, which are baseless."

In Jerusalem, Israeli spokesman Uri Drumi, head of the Government Press Office, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it is unreasonable to accuse Israel of being behind recent bombings in Britain and Argentina.

Drumi said: "It is now clear to the world who is behind these actions. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher clearly said yesterday that Iran is behind these actions. British Prime Minister John Major will soon determine Iran's responsibility for these actions if he is serious in the statement he made, namely that those responsible for the London operations will be sent to court."

Drumi added: "Argentina too knows who is behind the bombing incident that occurred there. This is why it submitted a request to Iran to extradite former Hizballah leader Subhi al-Tufayli and 'Imad Mughniyah. The latter is a Lebanese, currently present in Tehran."

Drumi said that Mughniyah worked in the past as a personal guard for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, that he was responsible for the assassination of the French ambassador to Lebanon in 1988, and that he has a link with the blowing up of the U.S. Embassy building in Beirut. He also has links with plane hijacking operations.

Drumi accused the Iranian Revolutionary Guard of being behind terrorist operations in the world. He said that al-Tufayli and Mughniyah are linked to this organ. In practice they are contractors who carry out operations as requested.

He said that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard has links with various terrorist organizations in the world, including the IRA and the Basque organization in Spain.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Husayn Agreed To Confederation Proposal

JN0408081494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said the Jordanian-Israeli declaration on the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem came before the solution agreed on between the

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PLO and Israel. President 'Arafat added that he had offered to King Husayn setting up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation with two states, two flags, and two capitals. President 'Arafat had also offered King Husayn the role of the head of the confederated state for life. King Husayn agreed to this offer, saying we should lay down the details at a later stage.

'Arafat noted that the relationship with Jordan is historic and distinguished and is based on fraternal understanding and mutual interest. 'Arafat said: Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory.

'Arafat Adviser Criticizes Husayn's Overflight

JN0308182894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Khalid Salam, an adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that Jordanian King Husayn's overflight of Jerusalem today is a provocation to the Palestinian people. He said: We fear that this stand will cause a deep rift in Arab ranks, already in disarray, especially since we are just beginning to find answers for the Palestinian cause in a comprehensive manner acceptable to our people, based on the right to self-determination toward an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

AL-NAHAR to Resumw Publication in 'Two Days'

JN0408082594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y has learned that the Jerusalem-based AL-NAHAR will resume publication within the next two days. AL-NAHAR, a political daily published in Jerusalem, was recently banned in the self-rule area.

Palestinian press sources told AL-RA'Y that there are no new developments concerning the ban imposed in the self-rule area on the two weeklies, AKHBAR AL-BALAD, whose chief editor is Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashibi, and KAN'AN, mouthpiece of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

IsraelAgrees toEntry of 20 PLO Employees

NC0308122194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1033 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Tunis, 3 Aug (MENA)—The PLO has received Israel's approval to allow some 250 Palestinians to enter the self-rule territories in Gaza and Jericho.

A Palestinian source said the approved list includes a large number of people working in PLO departments in Arab and foreign countries. The source added that another list with a large number of people working in the PLO departments in Tunis will be received in the next two days.

The Palestinian source said about 120 PLO employees who have already received entry permission are getting ready these days to join their departments in the self-rule areas. They will be conveyed aboard a Saudi plane.

IsraelApproves Return of Arafat Adviser

JN0408082794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 40

[Text] Amman—The Israeli occupation authorities have approved the return of Akram Haniyah, President 'Arafat's adviser for the occupied homeland affairs to the self-rule area in Gaza and Jericho.

Palestinian sources told AL-RAY that Haniyah will return from Tunis to Gaza in the next two days.

'Arafat Urges UN Agency To Start Moving to Gaza

NC0308122994 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, August 3 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat on Wednesday [3 August] urged the UN agency for Palestinan refugees to start moving its headquarters to Gaza and serve as the channel for long-awaited international aid.

'Arafat said he had asked Ilter Turkmen, commissioner general of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), to have UNRWA headquarters move from Vienna to the autonomous Gaza Strip before the end of 1995—the original schedule.

"I agreed with Turkmen that we can start right now, slowly, slowly moving it to Gaza," 'Arafat said.

'Arafat also appealed to international donors to channel their funds through UNRWA.

"Based on our faith in UNRWA, we told the donors we can depend on it as the best agency which can work on their behalf," he said.

'Arafat has complained that international donors have not come through with their pledges, which amount to 2.1 billion dollars over a period of five years. The World Bank and some Western donors charge the Palestinians with not providing proper accountability procedures.

'Arafat and Turkmen visited an UNRWA-built hospital near Khan Yunus and Rafah, two of Gaza's largest refugee camps in the south.

The 260-bed hospital, which is to start operating early in 1996, will be the largest in Gaza, 'Arafat said while thanking Turkmen for UNRWA efforts.

"Power Struggle" Seen Surfacing in West Bank, Gaza

JN0408104394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Aug 94 p 2

[By staff correspondent Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Less than two months after the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) set up headquarters in

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Gaza and Jericho, the first signs of power struggle between traditional politicians and reformers are surfacing.

Reports from the self-rule areas indicate that a power struggle between members of the PNA are taking [place] both in the farming communities of Jericho and the transport sector in Gaza and over the treatment of the Palestinian press.

While the forced closure of the AL-NAHAR daily, one of only two daily newspapers in the self-rule and occupied area, has received some international press coverage, other disputes have received almost no attention.

One of the most prominent debates between the PNA and local residents is a farmers dispute in Jericho over equitable water distribution which culminated in the dismissal this week of the deputy assistant to the PNA in Jericho district, Munthir Irshayd, by PNA President Yasir 'Arafat.

Mr. Irshayd had started a more equitable water sharing programme for residents, farmers and businesses in Jericho by limiting water intake of two major water consumers in the town. Upon the request of local residents Mr. Irshayd began a new water channelling programme in Jericho in his capacity as deputy assistant to the local government.

When Mr. Irshayd sought to involve members of the Palestinian police force in the scheme, al-Haj Isma'il, head of the security forces in Jericho, withdrew police support for the re-channelling of water.

The two main water consumers, the Maslamani brothers, a landowning family which runs farms and the al-Qarantal Restaurant received "favourable" treatment from the Israeli authorities when they still ruled Jericho, according to Jericho town residents.

The al-Qarantal Restaurant was consuming two inches of water while legally it was only allotted ½ an inch. Mr. Irshayd turned down the taps on the Maslamani farms and the al-Qarantal Restaurant down. The Mualamanis appealed to a local judge, who upheld Mr. Irshayd's decision as legal. Then the Palestinian minister of justice, Gaza-based Frayh Abu-Middyan, overturned the judge's decision and fired the judge.

PNA Minister for Local Affairs Sa'ib 'Urayqat stepped in to maintain the status quo. When Mr. Irshayd and town residents protested the firing of the judge, Mr. Irshayd was unceremoniously fired on the order of Mr. 'Arafat.

Now residents say the PNA also favours the Maslamani brothers and the owners of the al-Qarantal Restaurant over other local residents because the two now cater to the PNA.

"They are always with whoever is in power. The problem is that every new power of authority that comes in uses the same methods and allies itself to the same kinds of folk which are basically un-democratic and unfair to the people," said Abu Jamal, a Jericho businessman and a sympathiser of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

But favoritism and nepotism are not limited to the Jericho self-rule enclave. In the Gazan town of Khan Yunus, the town's attorney General Khalid al-Qudwah, a relative of Mr. 'Arafat, created a scandal in late July when he granted 80 taxis in Khan Yunus permission to transport Gazan workers to Jerusalem.

According to an agreement between the PNA and the Israeli authorities 100 taxis from Gaza would receive permits to travel from Gaza to Jerusalem daily to transport Gazan labourers who work in Israel.

When Mr. al-Qudwah managed to procure 80 of the 100 given permits for taxis from Khan Yunus, the rest of the taxi offices and drivers in Gaza protested.

"It is unthinkable that all of Gaza gets only 20 permits while Khan Yunus taxi offices get 80," Na'im Handoka told the JORDAN TIMES during a telephone interview from Gaza Wednesday [3 August].

"This is favoritism and nepotism of the worst kind," said Mr. Handoka, the owner of the 'Imad Tours taxi, the most prominent taxi service in Gaza City.

Popular opinion [has] been unable to overturn the unpopular PNA decisions thus far.

PNA Minister of Information and Culture Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh was aghast about the closure order against AL-NAHAR newspaper, according to the spokesman of FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation Party] in Amman, the political party Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh heads. "The minister of information was not consulted nor informed about the closure order against AL-NAHAR. When he found out he protested to the PNA president," said the Amman-based spokesman of FIDA, Salih Ra'fat. Protests against the order from local and international organisations have been to no avail.

PNA Official on Unemployment, Aid, Jordan Ties

JN0308184994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Interview with Palestinian National Authority member Intisar al-Wazir with Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given—from the "With the Events" program; recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, minister of social affairs in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], good evening.

[Al-Wazir] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] How do you evaluate the PNA's performance in the two months since it took over in Gaza and Jericho?

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[Al-Wazir] The authority has won the Palestinian people's respect, although the wheels of the economy have yet to turn in earnest. This is because, as you and the people know, the donor nations have not delivered on their aid promises, which overburdens the PNA.

[Mu'addi] The Palestinian street is perplexed and dismayed. What is your message to the man on the street who had pinned rosy hopes on the PNA?

[Al-Wazir] I will tell this to our people: Let us rely on ourselves, not on others. We have to build our national economy with our own resources. True, we have not secured jobs for our unemployed men and women, whose numbers are legion. I will tell them that they will not wait long before they find jobs. God willing, the next six months will see us through the joblessness problem.

[Mu'addi] Given the financial crunch the PNA is in, do you think the Palestinian side is prepared to take over the rest of the West Bank soon?

[Al-Wazir] The agreement with Israelis calls for early empowerment in certain spheres. We are prepared to take responsibility for the other areas. We will try to secure funding to ensure the continued operation of these services.

[Mu'addi] Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], Does your department, which handles social affairs, extend support for needy families in Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Wazir] The PNA will take care of all social cases, including families of our virtuous martyrs and those of the detainees and wounded who have sacrificed for the sake of the liberation of Palestine. These categories will receive priority attention from our social welfare services. It is true that we are behind in meeting our obligations. However, let me assure our kinsfolk that their requirements will be met promptly. They will get their arrears, God willing.

[Mu'addi] Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, would you comment on the banning of AL-NAHAR newspaper in Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Wazar] To begin with, let me make it clear that the PNA believes in and practices democracy. The closure of AL-NAHAR is unrelated to the freedom of opinion, speech, or press. It was an administrative measure taken because the paper had not obtained the required license for it to be circulated in the self-rule areas.

[Mu'addi] One last question, Umm-Jihad. What is your assessmenet of the present state of Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Wazir] To begin with, we maintain close bonds, which all our Palestine National Council [PNC] congresses have underscored. We are bound by our PNC resolutions which called for confederal ties between the state of Palestine and Jordan. The Israelis have sought through the Jordanian-Israeli agreement to drive a wedge between the two sides. However, I think that the wisdom of the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders is bound to thwart the attempt to drive us apart.

[Mu'addi] Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, Umm Jihad, official in charge of the social affairs in the PNA, thank you so much.

[Al-Wazir] Thank you.

Islamic Leader Supports 'Arafat on Jerusalem

TA0308141594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 22

[Report by Majid al-Balbisi]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Ibrahim al-Yazuri, a leader of the Islamic Movement in the Gaza Strip, has welcomed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's stance calling for the discussion of the Jerusalem issue now—that is, before the date scheduled for its discussion—because of the obstacles Israel is placing with regard to the city, epitomized by the attempt to Judaize Jerusalem and obliterate its Islamic features.

Dr. al-Yazuri added: Despite the Islamic Movement's opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli talks, which resulted in the signing of the recent Cairo agreement, the issue of negotiating over Jerusalem must be placed at the top of the agenda of the talks between the two sides.

Dr. al-Yazuri said Jerusalem has immense stature among Palestinians in particular and Muslims in general, and negotiations over it should not be delayed long.

On the joint declaration signed on 25 July between Rabin and King Husayn calling for giving priority to Jordan in the administration of the Islamic shrines, al-Yazuri said: Despite our appreciation of Jordan's previous supportive stance toward the awqaf and holy sites, we wish Jordan would not involve itself in the Jerusalem issue and in the priority of religious supervision over the city, because the Jerusalem issue will remain the primary issue for the Palestinians.

Al-Yazuri stressed: In addition to its Islamic and Arab dimension, Jerusalem is basically a Palestinian problem and, in the end, it will remain so. Jerusalem's fate will be determined and the city liberated by the Palestinians.

PFLP Activist Holds News Conference in Gaza

TA0308143894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Aug 94 p A4

[Report by 'Amira Hess]

[Text] "The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] will use nonviolent means to challenge the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and the unilateral democracy —which is not a democracy—being implemented here." This statement was made at a news conference yesterday by Hani Habib, a senior PFLP official, who returned to the Gaza Strip last week after 25 years in exile.

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Habib announced that the PFLP will not participate in PNA institutions but that its members will be active in political, cultural, and economic organizations "that aim to serve the people." Nevertheless, two PFLP members who returned to the territories with Habib and who are working for the Arts and Culture Ministry headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh will retain their jobs. This means that in principle, there is no policy barring the employment of PFLP functionaries in less than senior positions. Habib further said that his organization is opposed to the peace process which, according to him, began with the Madrid Conference and not with the Oslo agreement.

Habib is the manager of the PFLP's official publication, AL-HADAF. He returned from Syria to the Strip last Wednesday [27 July], together with eight other senior PFLP activists who were held up at the Rafah terminal for two days. Five other PFLP activists, including AL-HADAF editor Talal Ahmad, were prohibited from entering the Strip by the Israeli authorities and are still held up at the terminal. Their arrival was coordinated in advance, in accordance with the Israel-PLO agreement. Habib said the PLO had asked the PFLP to officially announce the return of its activists.

Explaining his and his associates' return, which followed an official decision by the organization, Habib said it was within the framework of exercising the "right of return," which is anchored in UN resolutions. He added that his happiness at returning to the Strip was marred by the sadness at "the Star of David's still being seen on our Palestinian land." He termed his return "a new exile in my homeland" and announced that his organization remains true to the armed struggle against occupation "as long as a single Israeli soldier remains on our land."

Habib reiterated his organization's objection to the condition that Palestinian prisoners must sign a commitment to disavow terrorism and violence if they are to be released from jail. "The PFLP voices its appreciation for the militant stance of prisoners who refused to sign. This signing is an affront to their integrity," he said.

In recent years, the PFLP leadership in the Gaza Strip has followed a relatively independent line, which did not always concur either with the line dictated by the organization's leadership in Damascus or the line promoted in the West Bank. The Strip branch of the PFLP did not emphatically object to the Madrid Conference, for example. Furthermore, it decided to participate in the negotiations on the establishment of the Gaza City Council, contrary to a directive from Damascus. In the end, the negotiations were aborted by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The senior PFLP officials' arrival from abroad will probably cause difficulties with local Strip activists similar to the problems that characterize relations between local Fatah and Fatah-Tunis activists: difficulties and tensions stemming from a separation that lasted two or more decades. Nonetheless, the view in Gaza is that the challenge of being in the opposition and the fact that the PFLP is not preoccupied with "job distribution" will spare its people the competition and animosities that accompanied the encounter between local Fatah activists and Fatah operators who arrived from overseas.

PLO Demands Waqf Workers Reject Jordan Salaries

TA0308153994 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The PLO is demanding that waqf workers in East Jerusalem stop accepting salaries from Jordan but rather accept them only from the Palestinian authorities. Pro-Jordanian Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem said that the demand was unofficially forwarded by the PLO to the waqf workers last week at the same time that the AL-NAHAR daily was closed.

Last week a waqf delegation, accompanied by Faysal al-Husayni, met with 'Arafat in Gaza in order to clarify this demand, which, according to the sources, is no less serious in terms of Jordan's interests than the closure of AL-NAHAR.

In the meeting with 'Arafat, the waqf people clarified that they cannot accept this demand. Jordan, for its part, raised the salaries of the waqf's shari'ah judges several days ago. Al-Husayni is slated to travel to Amman to try to mend relations between the PLO and Jordan.

The sources noted that Jordan has unofficially threatened that if the PLO continues its present policy, Jordan could revoke the Jordanian citizenship of residents of the territories or curtail their passage over the Jordan bridges. In reaction, the PLO threatened to raise the issue of the conditions of the Palestinians living in refugee camps in Jordan.

Yesterday, AL-NAHAR applied to the Palestinian Authority for a distribution license, in the wake of Nabil Sha'th's remarks that the newspaper will resume operations immediately after the request is submitted.

Islamic Leader Denies Report

TA0308171994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Today Higher Islamic Council Chairman Hasan Tahbub denied reports by some news media to the effect that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat issued instructions to awqaf officials not to receive their salaries from Jordan. Tahbub made this statement to our correspondent Kayid Zahir.

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Algeria

French Ministers Visit To Consult on Security

Juppe Expects 'Extra Steps'

LD0308201594 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Defense Minister Francois Leotard left for Algiers immediately after this morning's Cabinet meeting. They stayed there until the late afternoon, apparently to express France's support for the embassy staff.

This evening Alain Juppe asked the Algerian authorities for supplementary measures to ensure the safety of our nationals. This is what he said:

[Begin Juppe recording] The defense minister and I, having been asked by Prime Minister Balladur, were most anxious to come to Algiers this very day, first of all to share the grief of our compatriots and our community, who have been sorely tested once again, and to convey to them all our sympathy in the deepest and most genuine sense of the word.

We also came to tell the Algerian authorities that we expect them to take extra steps to ensure the safety of our nationals and that for over an year now France has in every circumstance reasserted its solidarity with the Algerian people and its wish to see them regain stability and security as soon as possible. We mobilized international aid to support Algeria's economic recovery. It has also been our expressed wish that, when the time comes, the return of stability will make possible the democratic free expression of all the country's political forces.

Finally, we also came here today to examine, together with the leaders of the French community, and with our ambassador in particular, what supplementary measures can be taken—within the sphere of the French Government's responsibilities—to ensure that security provisions are the best possible. [end recording]

Received by Head of State

LD0308202494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The assassination of five French nationals has prompted various reactions in French circles. The French Government sent its foreign and defense ministers on a mission to Algeria. They were received this evening by the head of state, Liamine Zeroual. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohamed Lamari, chief of staff of the National People's Army, Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, and the French and Algerian ambassadors.

During the meeting, the two French officials expressed their hope that the Algerian authorities would take the necessary measures to ensure protection of the French community in Algeria. They reiterated the French Government's support for efforts made by the Algerian Government to restore stability to Algeria and guarantee the success of the current reforms. On his part, the head of state asked the two French ministers to convey his deep indignation and condemnation of this outrageous crime to President Mitterrand. He also asked them to convey his personal condolences and those of the Algerian people to the French authorities, the French people, and to the families of the victims.

President Liamine Zeroual stressed that this vile crime, like all the crimes which had targeted foreign nationals in the past, was a complete negation of all spiritual values and values of Algerian civilization and was proof again of the subversive intentions which continue to target the Algerian nation and all of its partners and friends.

The head of state reiterated the state's firm determination to continue its work relentlessly to eradicate terrorism and violence in Algeria completely. He also stressed the Algerian authorities determination to spare no effort in protecting foreign nationals in Algeria and apply the most severe punishments against those who commit crimes against foreign communities.

Hold Talks With Ministers

LD0308194194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Defense Minister Francois Leotard arrived this afternoon at Houari Boumediene airport. [passage omitted]

Immediately after their arrival the French foreign and defense ministers held talks with Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif and Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri in Djenan el-Mithak. They were received afterwards by President Liamine Zeroual.

They left Houari Boumediene Airport for Fran[illegible]he end of their talks.

On departure, The French foreign minister made the following statement to the media:

[Begin Juppe recording in French with superimposed Arabic translation] The defense minister and I have come here first of all to say that we have been affected by the killings that targeted five of our nationals this morning and to share the pains of the French community. At the same time we held talks with the Algerian authorities in order to enforce and intensify the necessary measures to ensure the security and safety of this community living here. Mr. Zeroual offered his condolences on the cowardly assassinations. We will convey these condolences to the French authorities. The head of state also expressed his willingness to cooperate in guaranteeing the protection of French nationals living here. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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French Evacuated From Complex

LD0408105994 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The Ain Allah complex in Algiers, where five French citizens were killed yesterday morning, was completely evacuated today. The 40 or so people still living there were given accommodation in the compound of the French Chancellery. This transfer is one of the security measures decided on by the French ambassador to Algeria with Francois Leotard and Alain Juppe, the two ministers who made a lightning visit to Algiers yesterday afternoon, a few hours after the Islamist attack. The bodies of the five victims will be brought home by plane this afternoon. The plane carrying them will land at the Bourget military base just before 1600.

At the same time as the five French nationals were killed, there was another attack in Kabylia, in Tizi-Ouzou. An Algerian pensioner married to a French woman was shot and seriously injured while he was sitting in a cafe.

FIS Spokesman Reacts to French Killings

NC0308200594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Rabah Kebir, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] spokesman, has indirectly linked the killing of five French nationals in Algiers to France's position on the Algerian crisis. However, he stressed that the FIS is not against foreigners, be they French or otherwise. In an interview with MBC correspondent in Bonn Anis Abu-al-'Ula, Kebir described the French role in his country as provocative and called for reconsidering the role of French gendarmes in Algeria.

[Begin Kebir recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: First of all and as a matter of principle, we would like to remind everyone of FIS's position. We have repeatedly declared that we are not against foreigners, be they French or otherwise. However, we must caution that the French position rejecting the Algerian people's choice, shunning democracy, and giving the utmost support for the military dictatorship, is a flagrant provocation of the Algerian people. Certain French officials should forget the notion that Algeria is French. The Algerian issue must be treated based on the notion that the Algerian people are free, independent, and sovereign in their homeland like any other people and have full freedom to choose their regime and rulers. This means that France must endorse the principle of neutrality regarding Algerian issues.

[Abu-al-'Ula] What is your position on the rift that occurred within the FIS, with key figures such as 'Abd-al-Razzaq Rajjam and Muhammad Sa'id joining the Armed Islamic Group [GIA], and Anwar Haddam's praise of this move?

[Kebir] Thank you. In fact, the FIS is a major political party and will remain the first political party in Algeria. True, brothers 'Abd-al-Razzaq Rajjam and Muhammad Sa'id are key FIS figures and part of its leadership. True, they signed the unity statement that declares their joining the GIA; but this will remain a personal matter that will absolutely not affect the FIS's course. True, too, we have read that Anwar Haddam signed a statement praising this action and thus the Executive Committee abroad declared that brothers Anwar Haddam and Ahmad al-Zawiyah broke away from its ranks, and that any statement released by them does not express FIS's official position. However, this matter must not be exaggerated and called a rift within the FIS because it is a choice made by certain key figures to work for another party.

Two FIS Leaders Reportedly Defect to GIA

BR0308142494 Paris LIBERATION in French 3 Aug 94 p 14

[Report by J.G.: "Two Leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front Defect"]

[Text] The fact that Mohammed Said and Abderrezak Redjam, the main leaders of the Algerian underground FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] have joined the GIA (Armed Islamic Group) has had an immediate impact on the Islamic movement's leadership abroad. The latter has lost two of its members, Anouar Haddam and Ahmed Zaoui, who also transferred allegiances to the GIA, the most radical among armed groups. The FIS' foreign leadership made this defection public yesterday by announcing that two of its 12 members had left due to "differences" and that they "chose to work in another organization than the FIS." "None of the statements by those two brothers expresses (the FIS') official line," the movement's foreign leadership indicated in a communique issued in Bonn.

In charge of the "parliamentary commission of the FIS abroad," Anouar Haddam seems to have followed the two men who, like himself, are members of the same organization, rather than having obeyed deep-seated beliefs. Anouar Haddam, like Mohammed Said and Redjam, is a member of an Islamic group called "Djez'ara" ("Those for Algeria"), which has been developing a strictly Algerian vision of Islam, one considered "moderate." In other words, the beliefs of Djez'ara are in theory radically opposed to the GIA's radicalism and extremism. Initially, Anouar Haddam seemed to disapprove of the two FIS leaders' intention to join the GIA. He had good reasons for this. Currently living in the United States, he was careful to appear in everything as a "moderate" so as to be able to talk with the Americans. While he initially approved of the murders of foreigners, he has now for several weeks been their most forceful opponent, and he will find it difficult to retain his credibility after joining an organization which has claimed responsibility for the majority of the murders.

It was during the month of May that Mohammed Said and Abderrezak Redjam joined the GIA, which

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announced that all armed groups were being unified under its command. Theirs could be a move meant to affirm the "combat legitimacy" of this organization, which has been gaining new recruits everyday among the Islamic rank-and-file. Perhaps they figured that all other armed groups are going to be crushed by the rising GIA and that they had no other option if they were to avoid being sidelined.

Taking advantage of the fact that those two FIS leaders had cast their lot with the GIA, the latter announced that the FIS—including Abassi Madani and Ali Benhadj, its two leaders currently in jail—was part of its "Majless Echoura" (Advisory Council). In a statement issued on a cassette tape, Mohammed Said even said that the GIA was "the only legitimate organization in Algeria." The FIS' answer was not long in coming: The AIS (Islamic Salvation Army), which is considered its military arm, countered GIA allegations in a communique denying any FIS allegiance to the GIA. Furthermore, the communique called for all armed groups to unite around the FIS, and said the murders of foreigners were "illegal." This was the first time armed groups were clearly condemning the killing of foreigners.

The announcement of Anouar Haddam and Abderrezak Redjam's "dissidence"—as well as their defection from the FIS leadership abroad, whose head is Rabah Kebir—is yet another stage in the battle for supremacy currently raging between the GIA and the AIS.

Treasury Delegate, Government Spokeswoman Named

LD0308204394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Head of State Liamine Zeroual today appointed Badreddine Nouioua to the post of minister delegate to the treasury.

For his part, Mokdad Sifi, the head of the government, today appointed Mrs. Laila Aslaoui, minister delegate to the head of government in charge of national solidarity and the family, as official government spokeswoman, in addition to her current ministerial post.

Energy Minister Discusses Economy, Gas Exports

NC0308121494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Ankara, 3 Aug (MENA)—Algerian Energy Minister Amar Mekhloufi said today that economic relations between Egypt and Algeria will improve greatly following [Algerian Prime Minister] Mokdad Sifi's recent visit to Egypt.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent in Ankara, where Mekhloufi is currently visiting, the Algerian minister said that during a meeting with the Algerian prime minister, President Mubarak stressed the need to restore Egyptian-Algerian economic cooperation to its previous level. He noted that the minister of industry and trade was among the ministers who accompanied the Algerian prime minister during the visit, which indicates Algeria's desire to boost bilateral cooperation. Mekhloufi said the current situation in Algeria has greatly affected the Algerian economy, causing a 40-percent devaluation of the Algerian dinar last January. But, he added, there is no intention of devaluing the national currency further.

He pointed out that Algeria has a reserve of 3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, that contracts have been signed to export natural gas next year amounting to 60 billion cubic feet, and that the amount exported this year totals 30 billion cubic feet. The Algerian minister said Turkey will import 2 billion cubic feet of Algerian gas this year and next. This, he noted, will strengthen bilateral trade exchange, which has dropped from $200 million to $80 million.

He said Algeria's agreements with the IMF and the Paris Club have helped to alleviate the Algerian economy's suffering through rescheduling foreign debts, especially as these accords were signed when the country was suffering an acute shortage of hard currency.

He noted that the industrial sector currently operates at 60 percent of its performance potential and expressed hope that the rate will go up. He said: If we fail to achieve a good rate of economic growth this year, we hope to achieve at least a 3-percent growth rate next year. He added that the country's economic problem is being solved and that the government is determined to emerge from this crisis through several measures that it has already begun to implement.

Egypt

Mubarak Telephones al-Qadhdhafi on Current Issues

NC0308131894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has telephoned brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. The two men discussed current developments on the regional and international scenes as well as bilateral relations.

Officials on Libyan Committee Meetings

NC0308140994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee members today. Afterward Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said the meeting dealt with every issue relating to cooperation between Egypt and Libya. He said: We reviewed for President Mubarak the results of the fourth session of the meeting of the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee, which will conclude its work tomorrow. He said agreement has been reached on all the outstanding issues

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between the Egyptian and Libyan parties, particularly on the electric grid project and the railway line between al-Sallum and Tobruk, noting that two agreements were signed on both these projects. He added that during the meeting President Mubarak expressed his wishes for the success of the committee's work.

'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, said he conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. He noted that he and Prime Minister Sidqi reviewed for President Mubarak the results reached at the meetings of the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee at its fourth session. He pointed out that President Mubarak met the members of the Higher Egyptian- Libyan Joint Committee and acquainted himself with the progress of this session's work, which we believe has achieved good results that will serve the Arab citizens in both Egypt and Libya.

Asked whether there are any new developments regarding the Lockerbie issue, al-Qu'ud said that the only new development is the initiative taken by the Arab League in which President Mubarak and Egypt played an important and pioneering role. He noted that this initiative was supported by the OAU, the Nonaligned countries, and the Islamic Conference Organization, noting that contacts are under way with the UN secretary general and other parties to have this overture, which we believe is good and can settle this problem, implemented.

On new Egyptian-Libyan projects, al-Qu'ud said a timetable has been established to carry out the grid project between the two countries. He noted that with this grid and the one with Tunisia the electric network of North Africa will be linked with Europe through Spain. He added that this grid will also be linked with the countries of the Arab east.

Al-Qu'ud pointed out that he agreed with the Egyptian party to lay an oil pipeline between Tobruk and Alexandria and to establish an oil refinery in Alexandria, making the area from Alexandria to Tobruk one economic zone. He noted that work has started to establish 20 gas stations for Libyan oil products along this line. He said an agreement was reached to build a railway line from Alexandria to Marsa Matruh, al-Sallum, and Tobruk, noting that every practical measure to implement this project has been taken.

Musa, Silajdzic Discuss Serb Stance on Plan

NC0308143894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Geneva, 3 Aug (MENA)—Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic has met Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. During the meeting they discussed the situation in Bosnia in light of the Serbs' rejection of the settlement document prepared by the Western Liaison Group. They also discussed the stance of the Islamic Liaison Group, which will meet in Geneva, and the steps that can be taken to confront the Serb aggression.

Foreign Minister Musa arrived in Geneva today to head the Egyptian delegation to the Islamic Liaison Committee, which will meet tomorrow to discuss developments in Bosnia.

Iraqi Trade Delegation Reportedly To Visit

JN0408083094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 25

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Informed sources in Cairo have said a high-level Iraqi trade delegation will visit Egypt in the next few days, the first of its kind in four years, to discuss trade deals with Egypt that will include food supplies, ready-made clothes, and raw materials.

Last week an Egyptian trade delegation visited Baghdad and held initial talks on trade relations within the context of an equal deal between the two countries, with an initial ceiling of $150 million split equally between the two countries.

Muslim 'Militants' Reportedly Kill Informant

NC0308193494 Paris AFP in English 1752 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Aug 3 (AFP)—Suspected Moslem militants shot dead a police informer in a revenge killing in southern Egypt after he helped track down an alleged murderer, security sources said Wednesday [3 August].

The gunmen attacked and killed civilian 'Amir Hassan late Tuesday in his home in the town of al-Badari, in the Asyut province 400 kilometers (128 miles) south of Cairo.

Flying bullets also wounded a Copt passerby in the leg, the source said.

Earlier this year Hassan led police to the hideout of an alleged member of the Moslem militant al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group accused of carrying out a murder in Asyut, the police source said.

Hassan's family has accused the group of his murder.

Moslem militants, whose stronghold is in Asyut, launched a violent campaign against Egypt's secular government in March 1992. About 400 people have died in violence since then.

Charges Dropped Against Journalist, Party Leader

NC0308142594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—Cairo Criminal Court today dropped charges against Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri and AL- SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn, who were accused of libeling Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Cairo Governor 'Umar 'Abd-al- Akhir. Dr. Sidqi and Governor 'Abd-al-Akhir withdrew their lawsuit against Shukri and Husayn at today's hearing.

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The court postponed to a later hearing the libel case filed by Presidential Secretary Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi against Shukri and Husayn. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Warns No Leniency for 'Traitors'

LD0408093494 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2009 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to local tribes in al-Zintan; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Good evening. The Libyan people is rediscovering its history once more. It is proud of its fathers and forefathers. Every tribe should be proud of the achievements of its fathers and forefathers who carried out holy war, fought, defended, and died for Libya's freedom.

And I am sure that this generation of the Zintan tribe is currently studying the history of the Zintan; its heroes, martyrs and battles fought by the sons of Zintan because such an examination will be our asset in order to challenge the new enemy with the same resolve of our forefathers when they challenged the Italian enemy. [applause]

The aim of our re-examination of Libyan history is, furthermore, to draw lessons from it. We are determined that past mistakes will not be repeated in future. It is known that traitors were the ones who allowed the forces of Italian occupation to penetrate deeply in our land. Had the traitors been eliminated, the Italian soldiers would never have been able to remain in Libya or make headway into Libyan territory, into the Libyan desert, mountains and rivers.

One of the lessons learned is that we will henceforth not be lenient toward any weakness, split, or feebleness within our ranks or in our front. The enemy is the same and the means are the same. The enemy is looking for a catch. It is searching for those who have feeble spirits, searching for the cowards who have no endurance for resistance so that it can penetrate our ranks to create a fifth column and recruit spies and agents. [passage omitted repeating the same idea and recalling those who accepted Italian money and rewards and left behind shame and disgrace to their tribes, children and grandchildren, enabling the enemy to occupy Libya in the past]

We do not rule out that, at this stage, there are people who are weak and cowardly and would easily let their country down. We have always expected this. Not long ago, the whole of the Libyan people, unfortunately, saw on television a group of traitors and agents, a bunch of lowly scum with no honor, no upbringing or religion, who sold their homeland for money. [passage omitted]

They brought shame to themselves by turning to cheap spies working for U.S. intelligence against their country. Was there anybody who praised their work or honored them? Even the enemy who recruited them disdains them, the enemy realizes they are the most degraded people.

Therefore, we will not be lenient toward traitors and treason. We will not allow cases such as the cases of treason which took place in the days of confrontation and struggle against the Italians. We are determined to eradicate them. Treason should henceforth be detected, contained, and suffocated until we then throw it into the fire.

In fact some of those traitors who appeared on television were wearing military uniforms. One would expect those to respect, at least, their military positions and fight for that uniform, let alone the honor of their families and their national pride. Now, these people have brought insult to their military, national, and family honor. This means they have no honor whatsoever. Their appearance on screen before the Libyans harmed their families, brought shame to them and compelled them, regrettably, to bend their heads before the Libyans. Actually it offended us all. [passage omitted on the disgrace these spies brought on their tribes known for their pride and fighting spirit]

They say that they are selling Libya to America. What compelled them to do that? What is the justification for it? An ordinary officer—what happened? What does he gain? What does his family gain? What is the logic behind it? What would we gain under the rule of America or in surrendering to America? If America came it would take the gasoline and turn the Libyans into slaves. This is well known. We could bring a lackey, let him rule Libya and tell him to deal with America and so save us from its evil.

First of all America would say give us the gasoline, give us Libya, and open up its markets for our goods. The Libyans would become slaves living on the periphery just as they lived in the days of Turkish and Italian colonization. This is well known. The countries which handed themselves over to America were destroyed and all their people became beggars. [passage omitted]

The Libyan people have a past and a history. They have experienced colonialism and the rule of lackeys, the lies and ill treatment of rulers. They saw how Italy lied to them when it said it was coming with respect for Islam and for you and that it would save you from Turkish colonialism. Then the Italians hanged, slaughtered, and exiled Libyans, destroyed our land and gave it over to Italians. [passage omitted on evils of Italian colonialism, saying the Libyan people are very vigilant and know very well the tricks of colonialism]

I am convinced that if we allow Libyans to express with deeds their true feelings, places will be destroyed, burnt out, and crushed. The Ja'akah family was attacked in front of me; I managed to save them from death at the very last moment. They began to attack them, drag them,

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cut them into pieces and slaughter them when they heard that someone called Ja'akah had defected to the Americans and told them that Libyans were responsible for the crash of the Pan Am plane on the British town of Lockerbie and that the Libyans carried out such an act to avenge the raid of 1986. The Americans believed him.

The man's name was Ja'akah and Libyans began to look for Ja'akahs. They found a family with a Ja'akah surname in Suq al-Jumu'ah. They were about to burn their house and tear them into pieces in front of me, but I managed to save them at the last moment. Had people not shown me respect they would have slaughtered them in front of me.

However, his father came in. He made a public statement at Suq al-Jumu'ah. He said that his son was a culprit and a traitor. He said that he was washing his hands of him and that he would cut his throat himself if he were to catch him. He said, furthermore, that the Libyans should not spare his blood; they should cut his throat as soon as they catch him. Thus, he washed his hands of teachery; treachery was disclaimed by the closest members of the family. Even the father washed his hands of his traitor son. And this what is required: It is a must that treachery must be contained and checked. [applause]

Then the Suq al-Jum'ah tribes said that they would not accept the Ja'akah family. They said it was a family alien to Suq al-Jum'ah and that it belonged to the Zawiat al-Mahjub tribes. When Zawiat al-Mahjub heard this, they held a meeting and asked for the Ja'akahs. They broke their cars and raided their houses despite the fact that investigation was still under way. See how fierce is the reaction of the Libyan people! They have kept in their minds what they had suffered because of traitors during the days of Italian occupation. They will never be lenient in this regard.

When traitors are discovered within a tribe, the Libyan people will automatically qualify the whole tribe as traitors, they will disdain it and humiliate it. Such a tribe should defend its honor, it should, from inside, look for treason, detect it, contain it, disown any clans from it which are involved in treason, and say to the Libyan people: We are not traitors, we have washed our hands of such and such clan which harbors traitors. We, the rest of the tribe, ask the Libyan people, please excuse us and do not put us in the dock. The clans, for their part, should defend their honor, saying that not all of the clan are traitors and promising to find the families of traitors. Every clan should expel the families containing traitors until those very families disown the members who are traitors. [passage omitted giving Ja'akah family as example, reaffirming that the Libyans cannot condemn the whole tribe for treason if the tribe identifies the clan, the clan identifies the family, and the family identifies the individual or individuals within it who committed treason, isolates and disowns him or them, and announces total rejection of the act]

If one linked himself to the Americans he has done injustice to himself. And to hell with him. We should not repeat the tragedies of the Italians again. Therefore, if the traitor appears by himself, then we can acquit the family itself. Now the family of Ja'akah, actually, has been acquitted because the family itself—the father, brother, and mother—have disowned this traitor who is called Ja'akah. That is it. They said his blood is proscribed and if we catch him we will murder him. And we allow the Libyans to do the same. This family is no longer to be harmed by anybody because it disowned him. The traitor bears the responsibility himself. If the family had not disowned this individual, the family itself would have become a traitor family because it approves and does not rejects treason. This must be clear.

These are impersonal matters. They do not concern Mu'ammar or anybody or any quarter. They concern the Libyan people and the whole nation. We are in a state of confrontation and will not be lenient with anyone who weakens our domestic front or creates a breach in it. This is a time of confrontation and challenge. You can see how the enemy is, unfortunately, taking pride and boasting that it has achieved victories over the Arab nation and forced Arabs to recognize them and surrender to them. They forced Jordan to end the state of war with the enemy which is still occupying Palestine and threatening the whole of the Arab nation with nuclear weapons. They forced the president of the Palestinians to recognize the Israeli enemy. They are now directing their pressures against Syria. America, Israel, and their allies are putting pressure on Libya. They are pleased to have destroyed Iraq and divided it. They were also about to destroy Yemen.

Unfortunately the enemy is now expressing schadenfreude and feels it has achieved victories over the Arab nation. The U.S. intelligence services take a lot of pride in the fact that they have been able to recruit Libyan officers. It is a shame, those are U.S. officers and these are Libyan officers, there is no difference between them, but they can say this is al-Qadhdhafi who is defying us, the Libyan people who are defying us, there we have recruited their sons. It is a shame that a U.S. officer recruits a Libyan national or officer as an agent. You [Libyans] should recruit them.

The Libyan people is now determined that it will not allow a repetition of previous situations in which we were lenient. We know how many were traitors when the Italians came. If we had got rid of them [the traitors], Italy would not have been able to enter our territory.

Now we are ensuring that America cannot enter our territory because the traitors—those who guide it, lead it, show it the way and enlist with it—we are determined to get rid of them from now on—the heretic, the traitor, the smuggler, the black marketeer, the trader in dollars. [crowd chants: Hang them in the square]

I have heard these shouts from every place in Libya: No mercy for traitors, hanging in squares, machine-gunning.

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I have heard these shouts in every place, which means that all the Libyans are agreed that we must take our revenge on traitors. What is required is that treachery should be contained, heresy should be contained, [applause] the black market should be contained. These are all treachery. This will happen and treachery will be halted. [passage omitted saying tribes in every region will combat treachery, the black market, and those who spread rumors]

Thus, a tribe like Zintan, whose members, despite their poverty, managed at the time of the Italian occupation to tread with their bare feet on the silky world of Rome, should not tarnish its glory [applause]. A glory you must protect. And I am sure that you do not need me to remind you of this. [applause]

Lawyer Says Lockerbie Suspects Innocent

LD0308202694 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli, 3 August 1994, JANA—Mr. Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, coordinator of the defense panel for the two suspects involved in blowing up the Pan Am airplane, stressed that his clients' innocence in this affair was a certain fact, particularly as Libya has not received evidence that proves them guilty.

In an interview published in today's AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper, he pointed out that the list of accusations Libya received through [words indistinct] advocate, the British Crown prosecutor before parliament were mere allegations and contrary to facts.

In the article published by the AL-JAMAHIRIYAH article, quoting the London-based magazine AL-WASAT, the defense panel coordinator reviewed these allegations and said: The allegation that all (?three) timing devices for the explosions were sold to Libya is contrary to fact. According to the evidence (?supplied) by the Swiss and German authorities, the British know that Libya has not bought any timer of the type used in blowing up the plane.

The defense panel coordinator added that regarding the briefcase used in the explosion, it is the opinion of the British lawyer that it was carried from Malta to Frankfurt and from there to Heathrow. These are mere allegations, because firm evidence shows that there was no briefcase on board the plane [words indistinct].

The defense panel coordinator said Abd al-Basit [Muhammad Ali al-Miraghi, one of the two suspects], whose picture was identified by the shop owner of (Mary House) as being the person who bought clothes from him on 7 September 1988, was not in Malta on that day. Thus, the person who bought the clothes was someone else.

He said it was certain that the person in the picture was alleged to be Abd al-Basit, but was Abu Talib, a member of Abu Nidal's groups who was [word indistinct] in Malta. He said he had evidence [word indistinct] which proved that U.S. intelligence was covering up for Abu Talib. As for Abd al-Basit's diary, which was evidence used against Libya, the words had been distorted intentionally, and that could be proved at the first trial.

Asked why confessions by the Palestinian Yusuf Sha'ban, accused of assassinating Jordanian diplomat (Na'ib al-Ma'aytah) in Beirut [words indistinct] were not taken, the defense panel coordinator said: "I spoke to the head of the Lebanese court as the file [words indistinct] and contained all Sha'ban's confessions [word indistinct] and I stressed the need to help the defense team in the Lockerbie case, but [word indistinct] confronted many pressures.

Sudan

President Cited on Regional, Internal Issues

MM0308151594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 6

[Interview with President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir by Muhammad 'Allam in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] ['Allam] Past Egyptian and Sudanese Governments had put aside the Hala'ib [dispute] and concentrated on joint cooperation in various fields. Could that dispute now be postponed, or do you make its settlement a prior condition for the improvement of relations?

[Al-Bashir] Nobody can deny the importance of Egyptian-Sudanese relations. We are fully convinced that they are vital. We had been eager to develop these relations and freeze the Hala'ib issue. It was the Egyptian side which raised and reactivated it. When the revolution broke out 30 June 1989 there was a particular status quo in the Hala'ib triangle. The Egyptian Government tried to change that by deploying forces and taking security, military, and administrative measures in the triangle.

All Sudan wants is a restoration of the 30 June 1989 status quo in Hala'ib and to discuss the issue calmly and in a fraternal manner so as to find a solution that would safeguard the interests of both countries and their special relationship. What is taking place in Hala'ib is a new situation which, we request, should be reversed.

['Allam] What recently happened between Egypt and Sudan raises a question as to what really took place during your meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo in June last year?

[Al-Bashir] At the meeting there was agreement on the importance of relations between the two countries, preservation of cordial relations, and efforts to resolve differences. We set up a mechanism providing for meetings between the two foreign ministers. We took steps in that direction. A delegation headed by Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih went to Cairo and the first round of talks was held (in July last year). We have

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waited for the second round to be held in Khartoum, but that has been postponed more than five times and by more than a year so far.

['Allam] Despite the dispute with Egypt, some aspects of relations have not been affected. Can it be said that there are "red lines" which cannot be crossed?

[Al-Bashir] We consider our entire relations to be a "red line," and that is why we say they are vital. Describing any relationship as vital means that it constitutes a "red line" that cannot be crossed. For our part, we have not taken any step or made any move to undermine these relations. All the measures taken have been reactions to what the Egyptian authorities did.

We are determined not to let our reactions reach the level of Egyptian actions. The Sudanese reactions to the Egyptian armed occupation of the Hala'ib triangle have been diplomatic, not military. Despite the presence of the (Sudanese) opposition in Cairo, we have so far not allowed the Egyptian opposition in Khartoum to become active.

['Allam] Do you intend to abrogate the Integration Charter and the Joint Defense Pact with Egypt, which are still legally valid?

[Al-Bashir] There are many agreements that are still legally valid but nonexistent in practice, such as the charter and the pact. We have preserved them as ink on paper in the hope that one day, God willing, they would become a reality.

['Allam] What is your comment on the renewed charges accusing Sudan of sponsoring Egyptian, Tunisian, and Algerian terrorists and giving them diplomatic passports?

[Al-Bashir] There has been no evidence so far proving any of the charges made against Sudan, but the United States has placed Sudan on the list of states which sponsor terrorism. Egypt talks about terrorism in Sudan. Although the trials of a number of Islamists in Cairo have proved no link between them and Sudan, the accusations continue. These are both allegations and a campaign against Sudan intended to smear our image.

['Allam] Is your government willing to cooperate with other Arab states in combating terrorism?

[Al-Bashir] We are committed to fighting terrorism when it is terrorism; but we wish others would commit themselves to fighting terrorism, and we ask that of, more than anyone else, our brothers in Egypt. The rebellion movement in the south (of Sudan) is by all international standards a terrorist movement. The existence of an office for it in Cairo is flagrant support for terrorism against the Sudanese people.

Furthermore, we have not received from Egypt any response to our request for the extradition of the hijacker of the Sudanese airplane (last April) on the grounds that hijacking is an act of international terrorism. International agreements on combating terrorism stipulate that hijackers should be extradited.

['Allam] Many questions have been raised as to the nature of Sudanese-Iranian relations. Can you shed some light on these relations?

[Al-Bashir] They are relations between two states. All relations vary in their strengths and weaknesses. What is important is that these relations are not aimed against any state. We can cite Iran's relations with Iraq as evidence of that, for if relations between Khartoum and Tehran were moving in a different direction, there would be no relations between Tehran and Baghdad. [sentence as published]

Our relations with Iran are relations of political, economic, and cultural cooperation and there is nothing to prevent us from having relations with Iran so long as they are not aimed against any state.

['Allam] What circumstances would prevent the continuation of the cease-fire in the war against the rebels in southern Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] We agreed to a cease-fire (from 23 July) in response to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi's appeal to create the right atmosphere for peace negotiations in Nairobi, following discussion of that appeal by the political and military leaderships. If signs appear which indicate that the negotiations are moving toward success, then that would be a great incentive for the continuation of the cease-fire.

['Allam] In its peace proposals your delegation to the negotiations with the rebels in Nairobi mentioned the (1992) Frankfurt agreement, which speaks of "the right to express political and constitutional rights in a referendum following the transitional period." Should that be taken to mean that the door to self-determination is still open?

[Al-Bashir] We are talking about all the options specified by the existing constitutional institutions after the transitional period. All possibilities are open, but we cannot directly jump to the right of self-determination as an objective because Sudan's unity is vital and is not negotiable.

['Allam] To what extent did your meetings with the heads of the neighboring states contribute to securing Sudan's southern borders?

[Al-Bashir] Our contacts are continuing with all the states neighboring Sudan in the south. Sudan's security and stability are linked to the neighboring states, whose security and stability are in turn linked to Sudan's security. Meetings are continuing with (Ugandan) President Yoweri Museveni, with whom I have met more than three times this year, with (Kenyan) President Daniel Moi, and with the Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Chadian leaders on the basis of the need to build

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relations of good-neighborliness and noninterference in the affairs of others in the interest of the security of all the states neighboring Sudan.

['Allam] What model are you planning for Sudan's political future in the transitional period and subsequently?

[Al-Bashir] The features of the system are crystallizing. The first is that Sudan is a federal state consisting of 26 governorates and that change in the country is introduced through people's congresses from the grass roots up to a national congress, or through sectorial congresses including trade unions and federations and public and social organizations which will, through their congresses, be represented in the various councils at governorate level and national level. Furthermore, the opportunity will be available to elect representatives through free elections in geographical constituencies.

On that model, the system of government is a presidential system under which the president is elected directly by the people. We have completed the first phase (the phase of local government) and are on the verge of completing the second phase (of government at governorate level) by convening provincial councils before the end of next March. Then we will implement the third phase with the emergence of a national assembly to be followed by the election of the president of the republic.

['Allam] In the future, do you intend to allow self-exression for the political forces?

[Al-Bashir] Expression will be through the congresses, and the pluralism will be a pluralism of opinions and not of organizations. We are talking not about political organization but rather about a political system.

['Allam] Have you felt the need to comment on the fact that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi issued a second statement following the statement he issued after his release?

[Al-Bashir] The second statement speaks for itself and does not require any comment by us. Anyone who reads the first statement and then the second statement would draw the desired conclusions without need for any comment.

['Allam] Considering your ties with Jordan and the PLO, will you make any efforts to contain the disagreement which recently surfaced between them over the question of Jerusalem?

[Al-Bashir] I believe that, in the context of their existing relations, the Jordanians and the Palestinians are capable of containing any disagreement between them without the intervention of other parties.

['Allam] How do you assess the situation in Yemen and its future prospects?

[Al-Bashir] We support legitimacy and unity in Yemen and believe that the unity issue has been resolved. If there are any remaining differences, that would be over the general amnesty and whom it covers. I believe that the Yemenis, with their usual wisdom, are capable of settling their own internal differences. Any foreign intervention would complicate the problem.

From our own experience we know that such intervention does not serve the interests of the people concerned. We know that the Yemeni people have upheld their option of unity and legitimacy, and everyone should provide an opportunity for the settlement of internal differences in Yemen.

['Allam] After five years of the salvation revolution's rule in Sudan, what had President al-Bashir wished to accomplish internally that still has not been accomplished?

[Al-Bashir] Sudan's first issue which we had wished to settle quickly is that of the war in the south. We have not yet achieved that objective of peace. I hope we will soon.

Al-Bashir Calls IMF Stance 'Political'

EA0308211594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the Sudanese president, has emphasized the importance of the direct collection of taxes. He said the aim was for tax revenue to reach 20 percent of the national income, pointing out that it was not possible to balance the budget except by increasing the state's revenues. This came at his regular meeting this morning with the mass media and press leaders.

On Sudan's relationship with the International Monetary Fund, the president explained that before the National Salvation Revolution, the fund had dealt with Sudan without the government having specific programs. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir added that the government now had a professionally prepared three-phase salvation program aimed at activating the economy. He pointed out that a high rate of growth had been achieved, reaching 11.3 percent. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the fund's stance towards Sudan was based on political considerations. [passage omitted]

IMF Postpones Vote on Compulsory Withdrawal

EA0308181794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The International Monetary Fund [IMF] has postponed to mid-September a vote on Sudan's compulsory withdrawal from the fund. In their next meeting, the executive directors will draft a recommendation to be submitted at a meeting of the board of governors of the fund, scheduled to be held at the beginning of October, regarding the final decision about Sudan's continued membership in the fund or its compulsory withdrawal.

Mr. Abdullah Hasan Ahmad, minister of finance, confirmed this in a statement following his return to the

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country from Washington where a meeting of the IMF executive directors was held. He said 14 of the 24 members of the board of directors had voted in favor of Sudan, among them permanent members of the UN Security Council, members of the group of the seven major industrialized states, European states and states from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Arab world.

Court Sentences 2 to Death for Mosque Attack

EA0308170894 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The special court trying the two men accused of the aggression on 4 February against worshippers in the al-Thawrah mosque in Omdurman has today sentenced the first, Muhammad Abdullah 'Abd- al-Rahman al-Khulayfi, and the second, Muhammad al-Mahi Muhammad Ahmad, as follows:

The first accused has been sentenced to death by hanging in accordance with Islamic legal punishment. Furthermore, the $1,500 that were in the possession of the accused are to be confiscated by the state; the vehicle used by the accused to perpetrate their crime is to be returned to its owner; the Kalashnikovs, revolver, and ammunition are to be returned to the Interior Ministry; the exhibited [as heard] revolvers are to be confiscated by the Arms Corps, and the Molotov cocktails and (?arrows) used in the incident are to be destroyed.

The second accused, Muhammad al-Mahi Muhammad Ahmad, was sentenced by the court to death by hanging [word indistinct]. The court decided to submit the papers to the chairman of the higher court for endorsement. The special court began its sessions on 14 June and 11 sessions were held in all.

Tunisia

LE FIGARO Interviews President Ben Ali

BR0208151994 Paris LE FIGARO in French 2 Aug 94 p 5

["Exclusive" interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by Jacques Jacquet-Francillon in Tunis; date not given: "Zine El Abidine Ben Ali: 'Fundamentalism Is Your Problem Now'"—first five paragraphs are LE FIGARO introduction]

[Text] In an exclusive interview granted in the Palace of Carthage to Jacques Jacquet-Francillon, head of LE FIGARO's foreign relations desk, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali talked about the main problems facing his country.

His number one problem is how to find work for 2.5 million young people, currently at school but soon to come onto the labor market.

He also has an obsession about how to settle the problem of what he calls the "shady regions," distant villages that still are not equipped with running water and electricity. He hopes to change this situation "by counting on no-one but ourselves," which means triggering "a surge of national solidarity."

And what about fundamentalism?

President Ben Ali considers this issue settled in Tunisia because "Tunisia is a clean body." He does not fear contagion from Algeria, although he does deplore the relaxed attitude of France, Great Britain, and the United States with regard to the "enemies of freedom" who have found refuge in the West, from where they continue with their terrorist activities.

[Jacquet-Francillon] In its 1994 edition, the "Pocket Atlaseco" [economic atlas published by Serail], a reference work used frequently by French journalists, your country is described as follows: "This is not Africa, but a corner of Europe on the African continent." Mr. President, would you adopt this formula as your own?

[Ben Ali] It is more a formula than a real definition. It has a number of simultaneous meanings insofar as it stresses the ancient orientation of Tunisia toward its European environment, and above all it signifies that Tunisia has managed to reach a level of development comparable, in some ways, with the countries of Europe, since our roots, our culture, and our dimension all make us Arabs, Africans, and Mediterraneans.

Now we have set ourselves the aim of pulling Tunisia up to the level of a developed country as we enter the 21st century. We know that it will be hard. However, we also know that it is possible as long as we are able to make it to the end of the road we have chosen. We have gone about setting in place the legal, structural, institutional, and psychological platform required for this transition. Of course, we have already come a long way, but the road that remains to be covered is even more arduous.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Under your presidency and even before, Tunisia has acquired the image in the West of being an exception in the Arab world, in areas such as the emancipation of women, education, social protection, and even a degree of openness to international markets. These are indeed worthy achievements, but there still remains the delicate question of the respect for human rights...

[Ben Ali] Human rights is a cornerstone of our political project. Since the change, we have done everything to lay the institutional foundations of human rights, and to create the necessary mechanisms and ensure their respect in all domains. I need not remind you, in this area, of all the measures taken in favor of national reconciliation, the suppression of special courts, the legislative amendments introduced in the area of preventive custody, the strengthening of the community fabric, etc. This is in addition to the social reforms we have implemented to benefit all classes of society. In other

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words, your question alludes, with its mention of "delicacy," to quite another problem: that of the respect for human rights.

An independent visitor passing through our country could not claim to be in a country where freedoms are ignored and where human rights are not respected. While rights were abused during a particular period of conflict with fundamentalist terrorism, these abuses were identified and punished where there was sufficient proof.

Thankfully, Tunisia has not witnessed the bloody events that occurred in other countries in similar circumstances. Human rights are abused all over the world, but the important thing in a democracy is to be vigilant, to apply the law and develop mechanisms to ensure the protection of human rights. That is what we have been doing since the change in Tunisia. See for yourself and measure the extent of the change. Insofar as the things we are criticized for in certain circles which have leapt to the defense of the fundamentalists, I would remind you that the fundamentalists were sentenced quite independently by the judiciary for proven crimes subsequent to organized criminal acts of violence and terrorism...

They have the same rights as anyone else who has been sentenced. There can be no exceptions to the law. That is as true in our country as it is in yours.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You were reelected on 20 March 1994, winning more than 99 percent of the vote. Is that not too good a score?

[Ben Ali] Your judgment, which can be seen in the way you put your question, is that of a European observer accustomed to narrow electoral percentages and convinced that a victory by 99 percent is abnormal.

Before you pass judgment, it is useful to know more about the deep-rooted realities of the Muslim-Arab world where the special sense of political commitment has much more meaning and is more solemn than in other contexts—especially when you consider mass adhesion to a project of national salvation and a much-wanted policy for serious political recovery.

Tunisia is a special case in this respect.

To my eyes, this vote was, on the contrary, a way for the people to support and show their faith, not just in me personally, but also and above all in the choices I have decided to define and implement with the help of all active forces in the country. In this way, thanks to the results and achievements already realized, these directions gave hope to our people after a long period of concern and questioning.

With their massive vote, Tunisians wanted to show their faith in a policy that is implemented with their active support. It is thus a gesture from them indicating that they agree with the process that has been started and that they are fully prepared to participate in its implementation.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You have had to shelter your country from the rise of fundamentalism. More often than not, you have voluntarily associated fundamentalism with terrorism. People quote you as saying: "There are no good or bad fundamentalists... they are all bad!"

In more or less good faith—because they, too, are afraid of all forms of fundamentalism—certain European "intellectuals" criticize you for favoring slightly heavy-handed methods. How do you respond?

[Ben Ali] Fundamentalism, or, if your prefer, religious obscurantism, gives birth to terrorism. It opens the door to all excesses. It is a totalitarian approach which excludes all virtues enabling men to flourish and express themselves and preventing societies from developing and building on progress. This is a backward-looking vision which excludes all the democratic values for which mankind has fought for so long and which is the main result of progress in all areas. In other words, fundamentalism is a rejection of democracy and thus of freedom and progress. It is the antithesis of democracy.

We have to choose between democracy and fundamentalism. The fact that the fundamentalists have recourse to violent methods and murder shows that they are not religiously motivated, but are solely driven by political concerns. For them, religion is just a political decoy. They claim to hold the monopoly on religion, but religion belongs to everyone. Moreover, religion is an individual conviction and not a rigid, enclosed, and exclusive political ideology.

Incidentally, there is no difference, to my mind, between those you call "moderates" and the "extremists," since their final aim is the same: the construction of a totalitarian, theocratic state.

Opposed to those who use religion as a way of seizing power by force and who reject democratic principles, preferring violence to achieve their goals, we have set in place a multidimensional policy, starting in the schools and including a broad policy combining economic and social aspects at the level of national development. We are supporters of a constitutional state and prefer to leave it to the judiciary to decide on obvious crimes. Thus we have been able to solve this problem without passion or abuse and in strict accordance with the law, even if applying the law in this kind of situation requires what you call a "heavy hand."

[Jacquet-Francillon] Do you not fear that if tomorrow the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] seized power in Algeria, your country would become the obvious way out for everyone wanting to escape the cut-throats and to take refuge, not just in your country, but also in Europe and, above all, in France? What would you do to cope with this situation in the context of what people term basic human rights?

[Ben Ali] What you present as a possibility does not to me seem to constitute a reasonable and foreseeable

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hypothesis. Recent developments in our neighboring country, while very serious, prove that pseudo-religious terrorism is at bay. It is more violent, but isolated. The terrorists want to frighten the population and force them out of their country. Many intellectuals have already left. There is the risk that this outflow will increase, but I remain convinced that this risk will soon start to recede. The increase in the number of murders, especially of intellectuals and foreigners, seems to me, if we look beyond the dramatic situation it results in, to signify the failure of the extremists. You see, people who know that they have lost always try to take it out on innocent people to worsen morale and cause panic, so that they are the only ones left. I firmly believe that our brothers in Algeria, to whose bravery and forbearance I pay tribute, will emerge victorious from today's hard battle.

I do not fear contagion from Algeria because Tunisia is a healthy body. In Algeria, the situation is difficult but it remains manageable. In Tunisia, we have solved this problem through strict respect for the law. Fundamentalism is your problem now: I mean it is the problem of Paris, London, and Washington. France, Great Britain, and the United States serve as the rearguard headquarters for fundamentalist terrorists. In France, two Tunisian fundamentalists, suspected of terrorist action, and who have just been arrested, now benefit from political asylum. In the name of freedom and democracy, asylum is given to the enemies of freedom and democracy.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Yasir 'Arafat, who received your aid and hospitality for many years, since you were a friendly country, has just left you to "return home." Now that this page in history has been turned, what role do you have to play in the Middle East peace talks?

[Ben Ali] With the return of Mr. 'Arafat to occupied Palestine, the Palestinian problem seems to have started along the road toward a final peaceful solution. The autonomy of Gaza and Jericho is, certainly, a first step in this direction. However, the lion's share of the work remains to be done, i.e., restoring all legitimate national rights to the people of Palestine and, first and foremost, creating an independent Palestinian state. This is the aim of the process that has begun. Its realization will not just depend on the ability of the Palestinians to manage their embryonic state, but it will also depend on Israel's commitment to see this process through to the end. This is the tribute Israel must pay for global and lasting peace.

I remain convinced that the sponsors of the peace process and all countries that believe in peace and progress have the duty to redouble their efforts to help the Palestinians and bring about the birth of an independent state of Palestine..

[Jacquet-Francillon] I understand that you have never met with [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin or [Israeli Foreign Minister] Peres. Why? Do you not think it is about time you did?

[Ben Ali] It is true that I have not met with either man. Tunisia is fully behind its Palestinian brothers and gives absolute priority to the Palestinian cause. Now that this appears to have found a path to a complete and definitive solution, I believe that all the other problems brought about by this fundamental cause will also find their solution.

In this respect, Tunisia welcomes the signing of the Israel-Jordan agreement in Washington, which represents another step along the road toward a peaceful solution and the global and final end to conflict in the Middle East. The process has now been started, and normalization should now be just a question of time.

[Jacquet-Francillon] As OAU president, you have embraced much of the reticence expressed in Africa concerning the [French] military-humanitarian intervention in Rwanda. Let us be clear about this: Do you condemn, and if so why, the French Government's "Operation Turquoise"? Do you think that, given the shortcomings of many other African, European, and Western countries, France was wrong to want to play the role of "lone horseman" in Rwanda? And, in your opinion, what was the aim of this?

[Ben Ali] The situation in Rwanda was top of the agenda of the 30th OAU summit that met in Tunis from 13 to 15 June. Major debates on the issue concluded with the adoption of a resolution and we managed to get the warring factions to agree to a cease-fire, laying the way open to taking up the Arusha agreements and restoring peace in our trouble-torn neighbor.

Moreover, responding to the call of the UN secretary general within the framework of Security Council Resolution 916, a number of African countries, including Tunisia, announced major contributions in terms of troops for the constitution of UNAMIR II [UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda].

The fresh commitment on the part of Africa, which is now determined to fully play its role in the settlement of conflicts on the African Continent, deserves the encouragement and support of the international community. If logistical and financial resources for the operation requested by the secretary general had been released more rapidly, UNAMIR II could have been deployed more quickly.

The African reticence you allude to stems from the fear that a unilateral intervention—although praiseworthy in its declared intentions—would have delayed the deployment of UNAMIR II and, while proving to be clearly insufficient to help resolve this situation, would lead to an escalation of the conflict.

Since the drama and the scale of the problem then took a catastrophic turn for the worse, Rwanda will need all the help and humanitarian aid it can get from the international community. Tunisia has already sent as much humanitarian aid it can to Rwanda. We also decided to send in a second contingent of troops, some 500 to 800 men, to reinforce UNAMIR II. We can only hope it will be possible to deploy UNAMIR II as quickly as possible and that the new

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Rwandan authorities will do all they can to encourage the refugees to return home and start to dress the wounds inflicted by this dreadful conflict.

[Jacquet-Francillon] To conclude, Mr. President, how would you describe the results so far of bilateral relations between our two countries? Do you expect more of France? What? A message?

[Ben Ali] Relations between Tunisia and France are excellent. First, France is our main trading partner. France is host to many colonies of Tunisian workers. It is also one of our privileged partners given the ties of history, civilization, culture, economy, and human exchange that exist between our two peoples. Moreover, Tunisia is a favorite destination for French tourists. All these factors have created solid and long-lasting ties between our two countries that nothing can change.

However, both sides can do better. With its technological know-how, France can help us continue to develop and help in the implementation of joint development and partnership projects. That is what we expect from France.

For our part, we offer France the opportunity, in the framework of our new investment code, to set up mutually beneficial projects. We want the already excellent relations between our two countries to be really exemplary in every respect. We want partnership relations to reflect the feelings of friendship and mutual respect that exist between our two peoples.

'Leading Member' Urges Dissolution of Ennahda

MM0408102594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "An Official of the Tunisian Ennahda Movement Calls for the Dissolution of the Movement and the Resignation of Its Leaders"]

[Text] London—A leading member of the banned Tunisian Ennahda Movement yesterday urged the leadership of the movement, which is headed by Cheik Rachid Ghanouchi, to resign, dissolve the movement, and open a dialogue with the authorities. Lazhar Ebaab, an Ennahda official based in Paris, said that the movement's leadership had gone too far in its suicidal policy.

In his statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, Ebaab did not announce his resignation from Ennahda but he criticized its leadership, accusing it of being responsible for what has become of the movement after its confrontation with the authorities. It is not known just how significant Ebaab's call for the disbandment of the movement is, but it is worth noting that he urged "taking advantage" of the initiative taken by some of its former leaders headed by its former Secretary General Abdelfattah Mourrou.

Ebaab blamed Ennahda for "failing to maintain the moderate line and failing to let reason prevail, letting its position be governed by reactions and by going along with the emotions and ambitions of some adventurers who drove the movement into the grist mill of confrontation with the authorities and dragged it into the arena of international conflicts by intensifying its tone during the Gulf war." He spoke of the "loss of the movement's good name at the international level."

He added that "the leadership (Ennahda's leadership) went too far in its suicidal and lemminglike policy, ignoring the painful reality in which the movement found itself. It did not make even a minimum serious assessment or self-criticism, nor did it change the leaders which caused that catastrophe." He was referring to the departure of Ennahda's leaders from Tunisia after the confrontation with the authorities.

He also said: "To all those who love Tunisia and its people, regardless of their different positions, be it in power, in the opposition, in prison, or in exile—I appeal to them all to stop this whirlpool, think about the interests of Tunisia and its people, and pool their efforts to serve our beloved homeland.... Some may see this appeal as a dream and illusion but, deep in my heart, I strongly believe that there are reasonable people on both sides and it is to them that I address this appeal."

He continued: "It is an appeal to the authorities to turn the page and open the horizons of the future to the hundreds of prisoners and exiles...and it is an appeal to Ennahda leadership to think carefully about the seriousness of their responsibility for going too far on the road of isolation and of dragging everyone into a policy of intransigence and fait accompli.... I appeal to them to fear God and to think about the displaced and deprived children and families. It is an appeal for reason before it is too late."

He urged the "wise people in the movement to take a firm stand and cut the link with the past and its men and take their future into their own hands realistically and flexibly in order to be able to assess their experiment, rethink their cultural concept, and propose ways of restoring the sound character and role of the Islamic phenomenon as an Islamic cultural and social phenomenon gearing all resources toward serving the higher interests of the country."

He called on those "wise people" to take "a brave stand" that would dictate "the resignation of the leading figures who bear the original responsibility for this crisis and their removal from any position that determines the movement's future and development," and to "dissolve the organization and ask some of the leaders who are in prison, such as brother Hammadi Djebali, to rebuild bridges of dialogue with the authorities for the release of prisoners, return of the exiles, and formulation of a concept that would specify the future position of the Islamic phenomenon...benefitting from the initiative of Abdelfattah Mourrou (the former secretary general) and brothers Fadel Bledi (the former chairman of the Shura Council) and Ben Isa Demni (in charge of the paper EL FAJR, mouthpiece of Ennahda), as a framework that could be enlarged to include the young people of the Islamic phenomenon in our country, and spare them the unknown."

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Oman

Plans To Export 2,000 Tonnes of Natural Gas

NC0308164294 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 3 (AFP)—Oman will start exporting around two million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 2000 when a multi-billion-dollar project is completed, an Arab magazine reported on Wednesday [3 August].

The Gulf state has allocated nearly one third of its gas reserves of around 20 trillion cubic feet (600 million cubic metres) for the project, the first phase of which will be commissioned in the first quarter of 2000, said the Paris-based Arab Oil and Gas Magazine, obtained here.

A second liquefaction unit will go on stream in the third quarter of the same year and total exports could reach two million tonnes, it quoted an official at the Omani oil ministry as saying.

It said the project would cost around nine billion dollars in current prices, covering production, distribution and shipping.

The official said he could not give figures on expected revenues from LNG sales, saying this depended on prices when exports begin.

Oman, which is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is one of several Gulf states which have embarked on major projects to tap into their huge gas reserves.

Qatar, which has the third largest gas reserves in the world, hopes its income will sharply increase when it completes a multi-billion-dollar project to exploit its North Field, the biggest natural gas reservoir in the world.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has finished a one-billion-dollar project to double the capacity of its Das liquefaction plant to meet growing demand by its Japanese clients.

The projects were prompted by expectations of a steady growth in demand for gas as a cleaner source of energy than oil.

Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and the UAE control nearly 40 percent of the total world crude oil reserves and 17 percent of the natural gas.

Yemen

Fatah Official 'Abbas Zaki Departs Sanaa

JN0308144894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member brother 'Abbas Zaki left Sanaa this morning after a visit to our country lasting several days.

During the visit, Zaki held several meetings with state and government officials. He also conveyed greetings from the Palestinian leadership and people to our country's political leadership and the Yemeni people on the great victories achieved for unity.

The Palestinian official made a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA'. He stressed his profound confidence that Yemen has recovered and entered a phase of development, construction, and progress by virtue of the wise political leadership, led by His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council.

Zaki indicated that the Yemeni community, which enjoys all the possibilities strength provides, will inevitably win its coming battle, the battle of construction and development. The Palestinian official once again expressed confidence that the eagerness he sensed to liquidate the repercussions of the [Yemeni] crisis will return things to normal and compensate all those who lost anything as appropriate.

Concluding his statement, the Palestinian official described Yemeni-Palestinian relations as strong and excellent. These relations will be in the interest of the Arab nation, he added.

Deputy Prime Minister Confers With U.S. Charge

JN0308142094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi received U.S. Charge d'Affaires William Kirby today. During the meeting, they discussed national, regional, and international developments, as well as ways to develop cooperation in various fields in a manner that will promote bilateral relations and stabilize the region.

Salih Visits Aden; Cost of Destruction High

JN0308210194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today paid an inspection visit to the economic and trade capital, Aden. [passage omitted]

Upon his arrival, the brother president met in the hall of the building of a branch of the Ministry of Supply and Trade, with brother officials of the government departments in Aden, notables, community leaders, political party leaders, representatives of mass and professional organizations, intellectuals, and youths. [passage omitted]

The brother Presidential Council's chairman delivered a speech reviewing the plot executed by the rebellious separatists to carve up the homeland and end its unity.

President Salih said: It gives me pleasure to meet with you in Aden, the second capital, after a long absence

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caused by the separatist leadership of the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] who had strayed from the path of constitutional legality. That gang viewed itself as the custodian of this heroic city. They used to announce through the broadcast and print news media that they were Aden's (?friends) when they worked to destroy everything beautiful in the city. Had they really cherished Aden, they would not have kept up the rebellion or engaged in vandalism inside the city once the forces of legitimacy arrived and the defenses fell in al-Dali' and [name place indistinct]. Had they cared for Aden's inhabitants, they would have spared them torment, repression, and coercion. Their cause was to hold the tools of demolition and destruction. Such behavior was typical of such rebels who kept raising glittering and misleading slogans for the masses. [passage omitted]

We need not relate how they came to embrace unity, when in fact unity was never on their mind, but they [words indistinct] following the collapse of socialist systems of government.

The brother president added that our sons and brothers in Aden [place name indistinct] Hadhramaut, Abyan, Shabwah, look with hope to unity as their savior from a nightmare that haunted them over many years and as one of the elements promoting freedom, democracy, security, and stability. Unity, the president said, created a climate promoting an end to oppression and intellectual and moral terror. Unity was a unity of rescue. However, the autocratic leadership controlling the YSP sought to keep the benefits of unity from reaching the children of these governorates and blocked services and development in order to escape public accountability for their oppressive, coercive rule that extended for over 25 years.

The brother president underscored the government's determination to rebuild Aden and enhance its utilities. We will build Aden and rebuild all that has been destroyed by the war, the brother president added. The establishment of a higher national council for reconstruction will be announced soon. It will be entrusted with the task of rehabilitating the devastation wrought by the rebels in the separatist party command. He announced that a promising and prosperous future awaits Aden where there will be a free trade zone. Efforts will be redoubled so Aden can resume its status as a historic seaport. Aden, he said, will be the state winter capital, with the higher echelons of government moving to that valiant city to conduct its business. Before long, Aden will be an important center.

Touching on the deplorable lootings, the brother president said there are documents to prove that the rebel leadership directed its militia before fleeing the homeland to sack and loot utilities and installations. As of Monday, and before the forces of unity and legality arrived, utilities and installations were looted and sacked. Government establishments were the targets at the cost of over $3,500 million. [passage omitted]

The brother president indicated that he had given instructions for all miltiary camps and armed elements to be withdrawn from Aden. We have directed that Aden be kept free of arms and military camps. The military presence in Aden, he added, will be confined to civilian police. It will become a thriving commercial area, God willing. He noted that many basic services which were wrecked [words indistinct] by the rebels have now been restored. [passage omitted]

On inflation, the brother president noted the heavy burden the citizens are having to bear as a result. He said government establishments must comply with the set prices and the private sector ought to take the country's circumstances and the dire condition of the citizens into consideration. The Ministry of Supplies and Trade must, for its part, monitor prices and bring violators to book.

The brother president identified rooting out corruption as an urgent task to fulfill, because symbols of corruption used to raise the slogans of corruption. It is not permissible any longer for a corrupt person to replace another corrupt person. Appointments will now be made according to such standards as skill, integrity, and competence regardless of the applicant's political affiliation. [passage omitted]

Demolishes 'Torture' Prison

JN0308203994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Within his inspection visit to Aden, Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today toured the al-Fath area in the al-Tawahi quarter where the famous al-Fath Prison is located. The prison specialized in torturing many honest nationalist figures with whom those holding sway over the Yemeni Socialist Party command used to differ. The prison housed a den for torture and repression in which man's freedom and dignity were violated.

In a meaningful symbolic step which expresses the brother chairman's belief in the need to spread an atmopshere of freedom and democracy and embody the commitment to respect the viewpoints of others and human rights, the brother chairman, immediately upong his arrival at the al-Fath Prison, drove a demolition vehicle to remove the cells within the prison, thus wiping out the prison whose name has been linked to torture, repression of man, violation of his rights, and suppressing his freedom. He announced that it will be transformed into a public garden and playground for children in the beautiful city of Aden. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Clarifies General Amnesty Law

JN0308164394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its regular session this morning under the chairmanship of brother

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Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the acting prime minister. After reviewing the decisions made during its last session, the Council discussed issues on the agenda and assessed the implementation of the decisions made by the Council during its meetings in the economic and commercial capital, Aden. The Council also listened to ministers' status reports on the tasks delegated to them to deal with the repercussions of the secession ignited by the renegades and to repair damaged facilities and installations so they can provide citizens with up to standard service.

With respect to the political situation and dialogue inside the homeland, the Council of Ministers would like to make it clear that the general amnesty decision in no way covers those who were served with arrest warrants issued by the public prosecutor. The competent quarters should hold necessary contacts with countries in which those fugitives have sought refuge so they can be handed over to our country in order to appear before a court of law and to defend themselves in a fair trial.

Those persons who were misguided or have committed an offense against the homeland should take advantage of the comprehensive amnesty during the period defined by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. This is a period of 15 days which went into effect last Sunday [31 July]. Those concerned should return quickly to the homeland during this period so they can take advantage of the general amnesty and related resolutions issued by the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers. If they do not take advantage of the amnesty, they will be held legally accountable for all their actions during the rebellion and deviation from legitimacy, and will, at some point, have to stand trial before a just court and receive the appropriate punishment.

In terms of security, the Council expressed the need to take the necessary measures to return looted objects, such as cars and so on, which have been retained by the security forces, military police, and some military units, and are to be returned to their owners, including state institutions and individuals, in coordination with the governors of Aden and Hadhramaut. Moreover, the Council stressed the need to preempt the illegal takeover of houses and to evict illegal occupants from homes in Aden.

The Council of Ministers instructed the interior and defense ministers to present scenarios for regulating the process of protecting banking institutions in the country, in a manner that achieves full stability and security for all companies. The Council called for regulation of relations and coordination between quarters from the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, the Interior and Defense Ministries, and concerned governors.

The Council also instructed the interior and defense ministers to examine all means to reorganize border and coastal guards, taking security and political developments into consideration. [passage omitted]

Military Reports 5,500 Deserters Return Home

JN0408064394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense has stated the following: Within the context of the General Amnesty Law No. 1 of 1994 issued by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, which was endorsed by the National Defense Council, a group of deserters who fled the country during the sedition fomented by a gang of traitors and agents acting against constitutional legitimacy within the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has returned home.

The source announced that 5,500 deserters affiliated with several military and civilian establishments have returned home. The source indicated that the Ministry of Defense and other concerned agencies have made all the necessary arrangements to receive them and settle their affairs within the context of the General Amnesty Law.

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U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested at UN

JN0308145494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1352 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] New York, 3 Aug (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations over U.S. espionage aircraft, the U-2, violating Iraqi airspace five times from 26 June to 20 July flying from its base in Saudi territories, under the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the UN Special Commission.

In a letter that Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations delivered to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that the U.S. espionage aircraft, a U-2, flew for more than 21 hours over large areas of Iraq.

The letter condemns the airspace violations by the suspect aircraft, stressing that the aircraft is being used for purposes other than those defined by the UN Security Council and that its activity infringes upon Iraq's sovereignty and security.

In his letter, the foreign minister also stressed the need to use Iraqi means in the mission of the Special Commission, instead of using foreign means, to prevent any attempt to harm Iraq's sovereignty and security.

U.S. Said 'Plundering' Saudi, Kuwaiti Funds

JN0408102094 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug.4, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad said Washington continues the plundering of Saudi and Kuwaiti funds through complicity of Fahd and Jabir regimes.

A paper article here today said the plundering operations that followed the events of August 1990 were done under pretexts of alleged Iraqi danger and for the marketing of NATO weapons that are no more needed by Washington.

The paper referred to the volume of the United States arms sales to the Third World published by the Congress Research Office and said those sales had amounted to 14.8 billions dollars in 1993 realizing a qualitative leap of 20 percent against arms sales in the previous year. It added that this increase was realized by the United States sellling of fighter planes to Saudia at a cost of 9.5 billion dollars and tanks to Kuwait at a cost of 2.2 billion dollars.

The Iraqi paper further said huge funds were also spent by the two countries on the purchase of civilian aircraft through intereference of President Clinton at the expense of the European competitors for the sake of assisting the American economy from possible collapse.

The plundering of the Saudi and Kuwaiti funds had forced the finance minister of Kuwait to impose new taxes to redress a big deficit in the budget and admit that prosperous times in Kuwait had gone.

Concluding, the paper questioned whether there is an end to Washington organized plundering or the course would remain open for Washington until exhausting the last drop of the Saudi and Kuwaiti oil and said that realities confirm that American plundering continues through approval of the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes.

French Solidarity Group Meets Assembly Speaker

JN0308121794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has urged international and humanitarian organizations, societies, and unions to work with all means to pressure influential members of the UN Security Council to revoke the unfair sanctions clamped on lofty Iraq.

During a meeting with al-Hashimi al-Banani [name as transliterated], chairman of the French-Iraqi solidarity society, and his delegation, Salih said some influential members of the international community think only of their selfish interests. They do not care about the rights of world peoples and their aspirations regarding the building of their own future, he argued.

The National Assembly speaker noted the pan-Arab initiative announced by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in the historic speech he delivered to mark the 26th anniversary of the glorious 17- 30 July revolution, which underscored Iraq's willingness to turn a new leaf and bury the hatchet in order to heal inter-Arab rifts, clear the Arab climate, and promote the higher interests of the Arab nation.

For his part, al-Hashimi al-Banani said the prime objective of maintaining the embargo against the Iraqi people is to achieve malicious political objectives. The sanctions are designed to undermine the Iraqi people's dignity, their pride, as well as their quest for progress, he noted.

Furthermore, al-Banani said the French-Iraqi solidarity society will do its best at international forums to ensure the lifting of the sanctions, the continuation of which flagrantly violates international law and established norms.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Safa' Salih al-'Umar, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the National Assembly.

Paper Denies Iranian Claims of POW's in Iraq

JN0308112094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Jul 94 p 2

[Standpoint" column signed "Political Affairs": "The POW File and the Ayatollahs' Lies"]

[Text] The ruling ayatollahs in Tehran have not stopped lying to themselves, the Iranian people, and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] about the POW file, which they insist keeping open without any justification.

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Contrary to the truth, they claim there are still Iranian prisoners detained in Iraq. They also increase the number of these alleged prisoners from time to time. Previously, they said there were 8,000 Iranian prisoners in Iraq, then they came back and said the actual number is 16,000. Now, they are claiming that there are more than 31,000 prisoners. In two months, they might raise the number to 50,000.

The truth, which is known to the ayatollahs, is that there is not a single Iranian prisoner left in Iraq. This country returned all 39,000 Iranian prisoners as certified by the ICRC, with the exception of a few who refused to return and made their choice before the Red Cross representative. Henceforth, the ayatollah's conflicting claims and allegations will be of no significance!

The other truth, which is also known to the ayatollahs, is that they must release more than 20,000 Iraqi prisoners who are still detained in Iran contrary to international conventions, the principles of the Islamic shari'a, and UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987.

But why are the ayatollahs telling all these blatant lies about the POW's issue?

The Iranian regime is lying because it cannot be honest to its people and tell them that all those who were missing in the war with Iraq are dead and that there is not a single Iranian prisoner left in Iraq, although Rafsanjani had personally admitted once that most of those missing in the war fronts are dead and not prisoners!

The Iranian regime is also lying in this regard because it wants to justify its refusal to release thousands of Iraqi prisoners still detained in Iran without any charges or legal grounds.

Perhaps, the Iranian rulers are also lying because they think that present international conditions are opportune to sell their lies and false claims. And this is a delusion, also.

If the Iranian regime's experiences over the past 15 years are not enough to convince the ayatollahs that lies are short-lived and that their feeble attempts cannot hide the glaring Iraqi facts, then let them find another game or issue to busy the Iranian people with and to divert their attention from their savage and backward acts. Although we doubt very much that the ayatollahs can absorb the Iranian people's anger and delay their upcoming revolution.

Statement Issued on 'Missing' Kuwaitis

NC0308145494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1313 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—The Iraqi delegation to the Arab League today issued a press statement saying that 6,264 Kuwaitis were handed over to the International Commission of the Red Cross [ICRC] and returned to Kuwait. The statement adds that 4,214 Kuwaitis who have been in Iraq since 1991 and are registered with the ICRC have expressed a desire to return to Kuwait but are still awaiting permission from the Kuwaiti authorities to return home. The Kuwaitis, the statement says, have permitted no more than 707 people to return as of 12 July 1994.

According to the statement the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has notified the ICRC that it is ready to receive an ICRC delegation to discuss appropriate action in this regard. Iraq has sent the ICRC 71 files to examine.

The statement says that despite, all the difficulties involved, the Iraqi authorities are continuing their efforts to ascertain the fate of missing Kuwaitis in accordance with international law. It adds that Iraq has notified the ICRC of its commitment to search for missing people and its willingness to cooperate in this regard.

According to the statement, Iraq has accepted several mediation proposals aimed at closing the case of the missing persons and preventing it from being used for political purposes. Qatar has proposed that an official committee be formed from representatives of Gulf countries to visit Iraq and gather information about the missing people.

The statement also mentions that Moroccan King Hassan II offered to intercede in the issue. It adds that Iraq has cooperated fully with the two envoys sent by the Arab League secretary general to investigate the issue of missing Kuwaitis.

Group Discusses 'Stateless Arabs' From Kuwait

JN0408103294 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] On Tuesday [2 August] the League of Arab Deportees from Kuwait will organize an intellectual study group on the affairs of stateless [bidun] Arabs deported from Kuwait.

The study group will discuss for two days several specialized researches and studies dealing with the case of statelessness and the methods of tackling it nationally and internationally, the case of stateless Arabs in Kuwait, the phenomenon of statelessness in light of the principles of nationality, the position of the Islamic Shari'a and modern international law on refugees and stateless persons, and the social and political dimensions of the problem of deportees from Kuwait.

The researches were prepared by Dr. Mamduh 'Abd-al-Karim, Dr. Muzaffar Nasir Husayn, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim 'Alwan, Dr. Ihsan Muhammad al-Hasan, and Dr. Mazin al-Ramadani.

Ministry: 'Looted' Antiquities Recovered

JN0408102294 Baghdad INA in English 0835 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Aug. 4, INA—Iraqi Information Under Secretary Nuri al-Marsumi said the ministry continues effort on

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the Arab and international level through UNESCO, the Interpol and scientific and cultural insititutions to recover antiquities looted from Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr al-Marsumi said despite the non-cooperation of UNESCO because of American pressures, Iraq managed to recover big quantities of stolen antiquities and that Iraqi Customs and Antiquities Department managed to recover other stolen quantities which some had tried to smuggle abroad.

The Iraqi official said that plundering in archeological sites was still going on especially in the northern areas of the Kurdistan autonomy rule because of the abnormal conditions there at present.

The Revolution Command Council last June issued a resolution providing for passing death sentence on smugglers of antiquities in Iraq.

Mr. al-Marsumi added that American soldiers and during the 30-states aggression on Iraq had stolen antiquities from the archaeological sites which were occupied at the time especially from the historic city of Ur, south Iraq. Several agents and criminals had done the same in other northern and southern parts saying that a total of four thousands pieces of antiquities were stolen during the aggression and the chapter of sabotage that had followed it.

Ba'th Official Comments on 'Democracy' in Country

JN0308113494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—A prominent official within the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has reiterated that the democratization process in Iraq and efforts to promote it were not the result of external influences or pressures, but rather reflected the ideas of the party and the revolution under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

In a reply to queries from some brothers in the Arab homeland and friends in the world about democracy in Iraq published today in the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said: Iraq was at the forefront of the Arab states to have introduced the multiparty system in 1973, whereas most Arab states did not have this system until the nineties.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur refuted the democratic systems of government modeled on Western democracy, contending that these systems are based on copying and imitation. He reiterated that true democracy is a human status, the manifestations of which cannot be copied or reproduced. He noted the democratic experience in our Arab heritage, saying that it is rich in many positive aspects, which are lacking in Western democracies. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur addressed two basic assertions that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has made with regard to the multiparty system in force in Iraq, which was destined to introduce this system in Iraqi political life before others. The first assertion is that our perspective on democracy always served as a precursor for others. The second is that the formulas for political participation we set forth are not born in times of crises, as happens in other countries, but in stable and comfortable circumstances.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur noted other facts pertaining to Iraq's democratic march, making special mention of the free and direct parliamentary elections held for the National Assembly for three successive terms in 1980, 1984, and 1988. He added: By contrast, many other Arab states have not seen parliamentary elections more than once. This was in the recent past.

The Iraqi Ba'th official went on to say that a draft constitution aimed at promoting Iraq's democratic experience has been prepared. This draft constitution was freely debated by mass organizations, Ba'th Party bodies, and the parties making up the National Progressive Front. It was also discussed by the National Assembly. Nonetheless, the 30-state aggression precluded putting it to a public referendum. Moreover, a Press and Publication Law that promotes freedom of expression and fosters national sentiments has been passed to nurture the national construction endeavor and the citizens' interests. This law is currently in force, he noted.

The Iraqi official indicated that the imperialist West was shocked by Iraq's renaissance potential, as well as its scientific and technological advancement. That is why it poured its devastating and savage firepower on its infrastructure. Meanwhile, it acted out of malice to frustrate this country's moves toward democracy, and tried to depict its democratic moves as undemocratic in nature.

'Abd-al-Ghafur mentioned the issuance of the Party Law in Iraq, which gives Iraqi nationals the right to launch parties within a national context in order to build the homeland at present and in the future, regardless of the military chapter of the 30-state aggression, which was followed by other chapters.

The Iraqi official said the steadfastness, victory, and reconstruction phase has come about to assert that had it not been for the strong and substantial cohesion existing between the people and the leadership represented by the person of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, Iraq would not have been able to demonstrate such creativity in rebuilding the country in a record time.

Concluding his article, 'Abd-al-Ghafur said: Iraq is a democratic country in terms of belief and practices. Democracy in Iraq is in good shape. As for democratic institutions in Iraq, they are exercising their powers regardless of the continuation of the aggression and the unfair sanctions.

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Deserter Notes Security, Economic Deterioration

NC0308184894 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] In an interview with the Kurdish newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY published today, Haytham Yadullah Mansur, an Iraqi soldier who deserted from the Hayy al-Jamilah barracks in Baghdad and joined the peshmerga forces in the (Bani Maqan) area in the Chamchamal district at the end of July, said that the security situation of the Iraqi regime is seriously deteriorating. He said that there are a large number of soldiers who have deserted from the ranks of the Iraqi regime in all cities that are under the control of the Iraqi regime. He noted that he deserted because he refused to obey the dictator's orders, and wants to join the Unified Iraqi National Congress.

Mansur said that the regime's henchmen occasionally raid homes in search of deserters and torture civilians. He pointed out that the economic situation in Iraq is seriously deteriorating, particularly after the dictator imposed trade control on market goods. He said: We have been deprived of freedom for a long time. He then noted that he senses freedom and democracy in Kurdistan. He said that the masses in Baghdad view the democratic experience in Kurdistan with respect and appreciation.

Ninawa Begins Koran Courses in 'Faith Campaign'

JN0408103494 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 2

[Article by Ghanim Isma'il: "Religious Courses"]

[Text] Mosul—In continuation of the great faith campaign lead by the leader of jihad and faith struggler Saddam Husayn, the Department of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in Ninawa Governorate, in cooperation with the Saddam Koran Reading Center, has begun organizing religious courses for teaching the Holy Koran in all mosques in the governorate.

'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhammad Jarjis, head of the Awqaf Department in Ninawa, has said that these, which will be supervised by mosque preachers and imams and include boys and girls, will cover all the governorate's districts and subdistricts.

Guidelines Strengthen Money Exchange Firms

JN0308124094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] An authoritative source in the Iraqi Central Bank told the Iraqi News Agency last night that the cabinet approved guidelines on the establishment and work of intermediary companies for buying and selling foreign currencies during the session it held under the leader president, may God preserve and protect him, on 27 July 1994. The guidelines, which are designed to strengthen the activities of these companies, are as follows:

- Enabling the company to buy and sell foreign currencies against its account provided it does not exceed its paid-up capital.
- Reducing the security deposit with the Central Bank from 20 to 10 percent.
- Keeping foreign currency accounts with any licensed bank inside or outside Iraq.
- Charging a commission in Iraqi dinars on buying and selling operations amounting to one quarter percent on buying and one half percent on selling.
- Accepting cash securities in Iraqi dinars or foreign currencies from clients for the purpose of financing or conducting their foreign currency dealings, provided a daily statement is prepared.
- Obtaining credit facilities from the Iraqi banking system for the purpose of conducting dealings, provided the final beneficiary is the banking system or any other official Iraqi quarter which has been designated in advance.
- Keeping side accounts for other intermediary companies for the purpose of conducting barter operations on currencies and the comissions resulting from them.
- Opening representative branches or offices and assigning agencies to deal in the name of the company with the prior approval of the Iraqi Central Bank.
- Undertaking the purchase and sale of foreign draft checks in foreign currencies and depositing them in accounts in the name of the company inside or outside the country in favor of beneficiaries inside the country in accordance with special guidelines to be issued by the Iraqi Central Bank.

There are also procedures on the preparation of reports and statements which the company must submit to the Central Bank within the periods specified in the guidelines and the formulas currently applied by the companies.

Planning Minister Appointed Minister of State

JN0408091094 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 4, INA—Mr. Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning, was relieved from his post under a Republican Decree issued last night.

Under the decree, Mr. Faraj was appointed minister of state.

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Knesset Approves Washington Declaration

TA0308154694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The Knesset today approved Israel's nonbelligerency agreement with Jordan by a huge majority. The house also approved an opposition motion affirming Jerusalem's status as the exclusive capital of Israel. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the Washington Declaration is the essence of the dream of peace between Israel and Jordan. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was angry with the opposition Likud today. He understood that the Likud, together with almost all the other opposition parties, would support the Washington Declaration unconditionally. That, he believed, was already agreed. However, there were voices inside the Likud demanding an additional clause in the motion, affirming that Jerusalem is the exclusive capital of Israel. Among those making this demand were Ari'el Sharon, Beni Begin, and Dov Shilansky, to name but a few. They maintain that the Washington document weakens Israel's traditional position that Jerusalem is not negotiable and offers a loophole for Jordanian involvement in the negotiations on the final status of the city. [passage omitted]

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu bowed to the pressure and passed on the new condition to the prime minister. However, Netanyahu insisted that the Likud is still strongly in favor of peace with Jordan:

[Netanyahu] Because it's always been our policy to support the peace with Jordan and to seek an end of the state of war with Jordan. It's always been a Likud policy.

[Katzenell] What do you have to say to those members of your caucus who have reservations and refuse to support it?

[Netanyahu] It's natural that they would distrust this government. Its record on keeping its commitments on the sovereignty and the unity of Jerusalem, Israeli sovereignty, is questionable. But the majority of the members feel that that distrust is not a sufficient reason not to vote for something that we all agree on: peace with Jordan.

[Katzenell] [passage omitted] The vote was 91 in favor of the government's motion, with only three against and two abstentions. The Likud's motion on Jerusalem was passed by 77 votes to nine, with four abstentions. The three who voted against the Washington Declaration were from the extreme right-wing Moledet party. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Netanyahu Addresses Knesset

TA0308104494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0834 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Statement by Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Likud Party, during debate on the Washington Declaration in the Knesset in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The Honorable President of the State, I would first like to apologize on my and my colleagues' behalf for the slight delay [in the Likud Knesset members' entry into the Knesset plenum]. This was not intended as a slight to your honor, I assure you.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues the Knesset members, we are party today to a very unique gathering of Israel's Knesset. This is one of those rare and historic moments during which the Knesset is going to support the tidings of peace. I think there is no division here among the Knesset members or parties. In today's debate we express the yearning and prayer of all Israeli citizens. The State of Israel which was notified by the late Menahem Begin 16 years ago about peace with the largest Arab country, Egypt, is now making an important step toward full and formal peace with a second Arab country, Jordan.

Generations of fighters wished and prayed for this day. This encompasses the 1948 combatants who boldly fought against the Jordanian legion, the Six-Day War soldiers, and the fighters involved in the war of attrition and the bloody pursuits in the Jordan Valley. Lots of blood was shed in those wars on the Jordanian front indeed. There are numerous houses in Israel where children were orphaned—some of whom we have seen lately—parents bereaved, and wives widowed. We are telling them today: We were privileged to witness the day on which the state of war between Israel and Jordan was ended. No more grief, suffering, and bereavement on the front with Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, since the foundation of the State of Israel all Israeli Governments have striven to achieve peace with the Hashemite kingdom. Despite Jordan's invasion of Eretz Yisra'el during the War of Independence, despite its joining the attack on Israel during the Six-Day War, we had not given up on the goal of obtaining a peace treaty with the Jordanian kingdom. The Washington Declaration submitted to us today is another move forward, another move on the road on which Israel and Jordan have embarked since 1970. I am noting that year since it was that year when, in a courageous effort and a daring move which was supported by Israel, Husayn led to the termination of the state of terror the PLO established in Jordan. Since that date, a reality of peace, cooperation, and increasing coordination in all or most walks of life, including the security one, has gradually emerged on our eastern border, between Israel and Jordan. Indeed, if I am to point to the uniqueness of our relations with Jordan, as expressed on this occasion, I would point to this gradual emergence of practical peace on the ground. With Egypt we first had the agreement paper and then peace, while with Jordan we first had the peace and then we have the paper.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to the impression the left is trying to give, as if there were a camp of peace supporters and a camp of peace enemies among our people, reality is the opposite, and it is proven in this house. When Israel

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progresses toward a peace arrangement, a stable and safe peace arrangement which does not jeopardize our vital and national interests, all people are united around this move. Hence our position as an opposition. We support the peace move with Jordan since it is a good move. We are opposed to the agreement with the PLO since it is a bad move. The PLO has not abandoned its aspiration of liquidating the State of Israel while Husayn has no such aspiration. Husayn wants a Hashemite state alongside the State of Israel, while the PLO wants an 'Arafat state in place of the State of Israel, and this is the source of the difference. Let me add that this is not a difference which came about now or over the past year. 'Arafat draws his inspiration from that person he called his teacher and mentor, the PLO's guide, that mufti who struck an alliance with Hitler to annihilate the Jews. On the other hand, despite the wars and the blood which was shed, Husayn draws his world outlook from his grandfather 'Abdallah who was murdered by the messengers of that mufti precisely for his willingness to make peace with Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset members, after many years of covert contacts with the Jordanian kingdom, relations between the two countries came to light at the Madrid conference for the first time. It was the Likud government which led Jordan to the realization that it is necessary to start translating the reality of peace on the ground to an overt and formal political reality. It is in this spirit that we support the end of the state of war achieved in the Washington Declaration.

Mr. Prime Minister, alongside our support, I want to emphasize several basic principles of our policy regarding the continuation of the negotiations with Jordan. It must be absolutely clear that our support is not a blank check. We are not promising the government our automatic support regarding the various important issues on the agenda. Only a resolute government stand on these issues will guarantee our continued support.

The first principle we must insist on is total opposition to any form of transfer of refugees from the kingdom of Jordan to the western side of the Jordan River. We are naturally aware of the hardships faced by Jordan, especially against the background of the refugees who fled Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf war. We will support international aid to Jordan aimed at solving the problem of the refugees on its territory; we will firmly oppose the transfer of refugees to the western side of the Jordan River.

The second principle which must be preserved is to firmly uphold our interests regarding natural resources, mainly land and water, issues which will naturally be raised in the course of the practical negotiations between the two countries.

The third principle, however, is the most significant of all. Mr. Prime Minister, we must strictly preserve our total sovereignty in Jerusalem. I must say that on this issue, the agreement is formulated in vague, obscure, and somewhat cunning language. I want to remove all traces of obscurity and cunning from this issue. If the government intends to hold negotiations on Jerusalem in the future, we will oppose this. Let there be no doubt that our support for the end to the state of belligerency, as achieved in the Washington Declaration, does not include any agreement to negotiations on any part of Jerusalem. Mr. Prime Minister, Jerusalem is not for sale or transfer. Therefore, there is no room for a debate on whether to hand over some part or another to Jordan or the PLO. When referring to Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, all rights are reserved solely to the State of Israel and the Jewish nation, while safeguarding freedom of worship for the various religions. Throughout the thousands of years of Jerusalem's existence, it is only under Israeli sovereignty that such freedom of worship has been assured. This is how things stand at present and how they should remain in the future.

Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing a rare moment in the Israeli politics of the last two years, a moment of broad unity in the country at large and in the Knesset regarding a vital political issue. This is a rare moment—and I say this regretfully—against the background of the policy of the present government, which from its inception has striven to implement far-reaching steps that are unacceptable to at least half the nation.

We are indeed opposed to your policy of concessions on the Golan and regarding the Golan. We are opposed to the agreements you have made with the PLO. I believe we also disagree about something much more basic, because we do not share the concept that peace will be achieved through a series of concessions and continuous capitulation. We believe peace will be achieved in a completely opposite manner—namely, by strengthening and fortifying Israel; not by increasing the power of our Arab neighbors but rather by strengthening the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]; not by an army of terrorists but by the Israeli Army; not by promoting the refugees' right of return but by advancing and intensifying Jewish immigration; not by cultivating Arab settlements but by enlarging and strengthening the Jewish settlements. We are opposed to these things. Therefore, Mr. Prime Minister, in view of these very profound differences between us, there is absolutely no possibility of our joining this government. I have heard remarks to this effect in the media, but there is absolutely no chance of this happening; it is not on the agenda. What is on the agenda, however, is an attempt to attain broad national consensus on one central issue. Just as such an understanding was achieved regarding the moves with Jordan, we should try to consolidate a similar understanding regarding the moves concerning the future of Judaea and Samaria. This is the cradle of the Jewish nation, the core of Eretz Yisra'el, the wall of defense for the State of Israel, and this is the main location of the Jewish pioneering settlement drive that has flourished since the Six-Day War. Without such an agreement on the issue of Judaea and Samaria, the continuation of the process could create a very deep rift within Israeli society, a rift

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that might undermine its very existence. Those who think that peace abroad takes precedence over peace at home are sorely mistaken.

Mr. Rabin, you claim to be opposed to a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria; you claim to be opposed to a withdrawal to the 1967 border. If you are really opposed to these things, you must make every effort to garner a broad national understanding against what can be termed the Gazatization of Judaea and Samaria. Such an understanding can be attained only through a dialogue with all sectors of the nation rather than by fomenting hatred against half the nation. Such an understanding can be attained only through a dialogue between the government and the opposition and not by disparaging half the population of the country you lead. If I had to point to the most significant lesson from the agreement with Jordan, it would be the following: A divided Israel is a weak Israel that makes bad agreements; a united Israel is a strong Israel that will make good agreements in terms of security and real peace.

Peres To 'Vigorously Oppose' Satellite Sale

TA0308145294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Aug 94 p A5

[Report by defense correspondent Sharon Sade]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reacted yesterday to reports that the United States has asked Israel not to oppose the sale of a photo-reconnaissance satellite to Saudi Arabia. Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, Peres said Israel would vigorously oppose the U.S. plan to sell such a satellite to Saudi Arabia.

Peres was replying to Likud Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, who asked for the minister's reaction to the report. Peres said that although he is not familiar with the details of the issue, Israel would in principle object to the sale of such a satellite to the Saudis. [passage omitted]

King Husayn's Plane Overflies Country

Rabin: Flight Inaugurates Path

TA0308125094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1226 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Speaking to reporters on his way to the Knesset plenum where a vote is about to take place, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin referred to the communique issued by his bureau a few minutes earlier on King Husayn's imminent flight through Israeli airspace, escorted by an Israeli Air Force salute flight. Here is what the prime minister said:

[Begin Rabin recording] The king had expressed his desire to realize one of the items agreed on in the Washington Declaration: the possibility of shortening Israeli and Jordanian flight routes. Thus, instead of taking a circuitous route, the king, who must have left London by this time, will fly directly from England to Amman, crossing through Israeli airspace, escorted by Israeli fighter planes. He will fly above Tel Aviv and Jerusalem en route to Amman. In so doing, the king himself will establish a precedent: The Jordanian flight route will henceforth cross through Israeli airspace. As far as I know, he is flying the airplane himself and will thus have an opportunity to see Israel from above. He is apparently planning to fly low in an attempt to see Tel Aviv, the scenery from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and then on to Jericho on his way to Amman. [end recording]

Airspace Closed for Flight

TA0308141894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The Airports Authority has just announced that Israeli airspace will be closed for about 30 minutes, beginning at 1725 [1425 GMT], until after King Husayn's airplane has left Israeli airspace.

Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e notes that the announcement means that there will be no takeoffs or landings and that three or four flights will be delayed by several minutes.

Rabin, Husayn Converse

TA0308153394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1435 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Radio conversation between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the National Defense College in Tel Aviv and Jordan's King Husayn aboard a Jordanian aircraft during Husayn's flight through Israeli airspace en route to Amman—live, in English]

[Text] [Rabin] Your Majesty, welcome to Israel, even though on the air. I am sure that the people of Israel are happy about the Washington Declaration. Today it was approved in the Knesset by 91 out of 96 members of the Knesset, and no doubt it's a new opening in our relations. Thank you very much, Your Majesty. Over.

[Husayn] Thank you, sir. It's wonderful to hear you, and I'm very, very happy indeed to learn from you of the welcome that the Washington Declaration has received in the Knesset. Thank you so much for your kind and warm welcome. It's wonderful to be overflying your country for the first time in a civilian aircraft of a Jordanian [words indistinct]. I hope, sir, that we'll meet before too long, and to the people of Israel [words indistinct] all our best wishes and our prayers for peace. Shalom.

[Rabin] Your Majesty, I see you now, your plane over me, and I am really happy that you are looking and having the opportunity to see Tel Aviv from the air. What is your impression of Tel Aviv, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] Beautiful city, sir.

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[Rabin] Your Majesty, thank you very much. I hope that in your flight over Jerusalem, you'll see the tremendous development of this holy city, a lot of work that has been done there, and let's hope that the city will be the city of peace for the future of all the peoples in the region. Over.

[Husayn] That is indeed our [word indistinct] hope, and we'll do everything we can to [words indistinct] in our region, a comprehensive peace [words indistinct].

[Rabin] Your Majesty, I hope that whatever we started will be continued, and we'll see the results or, at least, the beginning of the results in the near future. Over.

[Husayn] That is our dearest wish, Prime Minister. Thank you so much.

[Rabin] Your Majesty, thank you very much, and a nice landing in Amman. Over.

[Husayn] Thank you very much, indeed, Prime Minister. Please convey our deep appreciation for the wonderful welcome and the very very fine escort that we have had, and it's lovely to be flying over your city. I hope that we'll meet again sometime very, very soon, and thank you for your wishes, sir. Bye-bye.

Rabin Holds News Conference

TA0308161694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1450 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Impromptu news conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with foreign and domestic correspondents following his radio conversation with Jordan's King Husayn, at the National Defense College in Tel Aviv—broadcast live in progress; italicized passages are in English]

[Text] [Rabin] ...We have agreed in principle to seek ways to enable both Israeli and Jordanian airliners to operate as if they were flying in friendly airspace. The problem is that, naturally, the matter is much more important for the Jordanians. We will have to look into the matter. Not only Jordanian airplanes but also other airlines can today reach Amman in much less time than before, when they had to take circuitous routes to the north. We will have to discuss this matter. We must remember that we will benefit marginally by this, because even if we are permitted to fly through Jordanian airspace, we will have Saudi Arabia to the south, Iraq to the east, and Syria to the north. Yet this should not prevent us from launching cooperation in the hope that it will open new vistas for us as well. On the other hand, we must also take into consideration the heavy air traffic over Israel, which, as you know, is a small country.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is overflying Jerusalem tantamount to visiting?

[Rabin] I said nothing of the kind.

[Alan Ben-'Ami, Qol Yisra'el's English Department correspondent] *Mr. Rabin, when do you expect to be making commercial flights* [words indistinct]?

[Rabin] *I don't know. We are not talking yet about direct flights between Amman and Ben-Gurion Airport or Jerusalem airport. We are talking at this stage about the use of the skies of both countries—or the possibility of the use of the skies of both countries—for commercial flights.*

[Ben-'Ami] *When will you have your next meeting with King Husayn? Maybe it'll be on the Jordanian side?*

[Rabin] *When I know about it, I'll tell you. In the meantime, you have to wait and see.*

[Unidentified correspondent asking partially indistinct question on the removal of the fence at the border with Jordan in the south]

[Rabin] I think the importance lies in the very inauguration of the new border crossing. For the first time, there is a crossing from sovereign Israeli territory to sovereign Jordanian territory. As you know, Jordan opened the Jordan River bridges mainly for the Palestinians, and they do not touch on sovereign Israeli territory. Will we meet there? This has not been finalized yet. I hope we will.

Agreement With Jordan on Southern Crossing

TA0308125594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The border fence separating Israel from Jordan in the Elat area has been removed after an agreement on the border crossing location was achieved. The heads of the two delegations, Major General 'Uzi Dayan and General Shurdum, waved a hand, signaling to the Public Works Department tractors to break down the fence.

Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers said their hands shook when the signal was given, and the reserves soldiers who removed the fence said it was their most gratifying military tour of duty ever.

The border crossing will have two passenger terminals: one on the Jordanian side and another on the Israeli side. A 50-meter road will link the two terminals. The border crossing will be inaugurated on 8 August, and as of that moment, third country nationals will be able to cross between the two countries.

'Abd-Rabbuh Reportedly Visits Temple Mount

TA0308182794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who is in charge of information and culture in the Palestinian self-rule, secretly visited the Temple Mount in Jerusalem this morning. This was reported by our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov.

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Speaking with our correspondent, senior Israel Police elements wondered how 'Abd-Rabbuh was able to pass IDF [Israel Defense Forces] checkpoints without reports on his visit reaching the appropriate authorities.

Our political correspondent notes that several days ago, Intisar al-Wazir, also known as Umm-Jihad, who is in charge of social affairs in the autonomy, also secretly visited Jerusalem. Umm-Jihad prayed at al-Aqsa.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 3 August adds that "in a talk with our correspondent Moti Amir, 'Abd-Rabbuh refused to comment on the report but did not deny it."]

Shahal, Olmert React

TA0408100194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has expressed anger over the secret visit of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh to the Temple Mount. Even as King Husayn openly viewed Jerusalem from the air, 'Abd-Rabbuh, a minister in the Palestinian Authority, was visiting the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. He also toured the Muslim cemetery along the Old City walls. Another minister of the Palestinian Authority, Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], recently attended a women's conference in East Jerusalem. The secret visits put Police Minister Shahal in an embarrassing situation. In the past, when it was rumored that Yasir 'Arafat or Nabil Sha'th had secretly visited the Temple Mount, Shahal said he would certainly have known if it were true. Now he admits that he was not aware of the 'Abd-Rabbuh visit in advance. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] The flight by Jordan's King Husayn over Israel, including Jerusalem, was welcomed with great excitement by Israeli officials, as evidenced in the conversation between Prime Minister Rabin and the Jordanian monarch. The Palestinian side of the story has both angered and embarrassed at least Police Minister Moshe Shahal, based on a statement put out last night. Reacting to a visit to the Temple Mount mosques by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Police Minister Shahal said that while 'Abd-Rabbuh entered Israel legally, it was unbecoming of his status as a senior Palestinian official to conduct the visit secretly. The police minister said the visit took place against all the rules and appropriate protocol. The statement goes on to say that had the Palestinian Authority official approached Israel in the accepted fashion he would have been received with the proper respect. There seems as well to be an internal Israeli problem here. Sources in the Police Ministry are complaining that while the Army was aware in advance of the 'Abd-Rabbuh visit, it did not inform the police. The sources say the police, on the highest level, will be examining the problem of a lack of coordination with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. [end recording]

Jerusalem's mayor Ehud Olmert says the 'Abd-Rabbuh visit arouses suspicion that the government is preparing public opinion for a visit by Yasir 'Arafat.

Release of Israeli Arab Prisoners Demanded

TA0308171194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Relatives of Israeli Arab security prisoners are currently holding a news conference at an East Jerusalem hotel, demanding the release of their sons. Family representatives say that with the signing of a peace accord, security prisoners with Israeli citizenship should also be immediately and unconditionally released and should not be set apart from other Palestinian prisoners.

Speaking with our correspondent Esti Perez, Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, voiced disappointment with 'Arafat's failure to tend to the fate of these prisoners in the course of the negotiations. He maintains that 'Arafat is busy improving his own standing rather than solving the dire problems of the Palestinian people.

Our correspondent notes that there are 73 Israeli Arab security prisoners, including two women. Of these, 20 are serving life sentences.

Damascus 'Sources' Say Lost Pilot Alive

MM0308151194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Assurances That Arad Is Alive, Treated as POW"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, Jerusalem, news agencies—The issue of missing Israeli pilot Ron Arad returned to the fore yesterday, on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East and amid the growing consensus developing among the parties concerned with the region's crisis as a whole.

While sources in Damascus stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Arad is still alive and in good health, General Herzl Budinger, commander of the Israeli Air Force, announced yesterday that Arad was alive and was being held by an Iranian-backed group.

The two stories linked the Arad issue with the issue of Israel's abduction of Mustafa al-Dirani, a resistance official, from his house in Lebanon's al-Biqa'.

Well-informed sources in Damascus said that Israel is trying through al-Dirani, whom it has been holding for two months, to identify the quarters holding Arad, whose plane was shot down in Lebanese airspace in 1986 and is listed as missing.

The sources added that the pilot was captured in Lebanon and transferred to pro-Iranian groups, that he is still alive and in good health, that numerous films have been issued about him, and that he is being treated as a POW in accordance with Arab principles. The sources, which had met him in the past, said that he has begun to speak some Arabic.

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Political circles believe that Damascus can play an important role in the endeavor to achieve some positive developments after reaching agreements with Israel about peace, in view of Syria's influence in several sectors of the Arab, Palestinian, and Islamic scene. [passage omitted]

Arab Mayors Seek EC Influence in Fiscal Crisis

TA0308171794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The heads of the Arab local councils have asked the Swiss ambassador and the EC representative in Israel to use their influence with the Israeli Government to extricate the Arab local councils from their acute financial difficulties. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the two envoys replied that they are enjoined from intervening in domestic affairs.

The Arab local council heads' strike near the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem is into its 17th day. They are demanding a supplementary budget of 150 million shekels to partially cover their deficits, which amount to 200 million shekels.

Jewish Committee Seeks Release of Detainees

TA0308183594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Report by Nitzan Hen]

[Excerpt] An action committee established at Hebron's Bet Hadassah demanded today that the defense minister release the Jewish administrative detainees in exchange for a written pledge to renounce terror. Action committee members claim that the Jewish detainees, who were never convicted in a court of law, are being discriminated against when compared with Palestinian terrorists, who were released in exchange for a similar pledge.

Several administrative detainees were awarded their first conjugal visits at their homes today. [passage omitted]

Two Soldiers Wounded in West Bank Shootings

TA0408100294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] An Israeli soldier was wounded last night when terrorists opened fire from a passing car on the vehicle in which he was riding. The incident occurred near Mehola in the Jordan Valley. The soldier's wounds are described as medium. The attackers were in a white Subaru with Israeli license plates. Other soldiers riding with the wounded man returned fire, but the Subaru got away. The area commander arrived on the scene to investigate the incident, and the Army launched a search. The wounded soldier is stationed at a NAHAL corps outpost in the Jordan Valley. He was taken to hospital in 'Afula. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 4 August adds: "The Palestinian police in Jericho say that yesterday they tried to apprehend the car of the terrorists who directed the gunfire at the Israeli soldiers near Mehola in the Jordan Valley, but failed in this attempt."]

Another Israeli soldier was lightly wounded last night from gunfire in an attack outside Hebron. Gunmen fired from a private car on an army patrol at the entrance to the city. The soldier was wounded in the leg. Other soldiers returned the fire, but the assailants escaped into Hebron. The soldier received treatment at a nearby army clinic.

Moments later a Molotov cocktail was hurled at an Israeli car near Halhul. No injuries or damage were reported in that incident.

Near Kibbutz Netzarim, in the center of the Gaza Strip, an Israeli car was pelted with stones. A policeman inside was lightly hurt in the head and was taken to hospital.

IDF Plans for Development of New APC Reported

TA0308140894 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is going to develop a new armored personnel carrier [APC] at an estimated cost of 600 million shekels. The new APC will serve the IDF Infantry troops. Its development will take about five years, and it will enter service around the year 2000. This has been divulged by a senior military source.

According to the source, the new APC will be based on one of several alternatives. One of the alternatives is the Akhzarit-1 APC, which is in use by the IDF. Another alternative is the Akhzarit-2, which is still in the planning stages.

The source said there is another alternative that stands the best chances of being selected.

The senior source added that the IDF Logistics Branch has just completed reviewing the various alternatives to be presented to Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and Planning Branch head 'Uzi Dayan. The preferred alternative will then be submitted for Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's approval.

Referring to the high cost of the project, the senior source said it includes all the development costs. He added that if all the components were produced by Israeli civilian industries, however, the cost would rise by at least 40 percent.

The source also divulged that the Akhzarit APC being used by the Golani Brigade and which was recently presented to the public by the IDF has failed. According to the source, "the Akhzarit has failed in various areas." The source noted that there are problems in the APC's reliability because of mechanical faults and the recurring need to change broken or defective parts.

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He noted that the Golani Brigade is relatively satisfied with the vehicle, however, particularly due to the considerable protection it gives to the soldiers manning it.

Namir Orders Work Permits for 5,000 More Gazans

TA0308173294 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 94 p 6

[Text] Some 5,000 additional Gaza residents will work in Israel. This move was initiated by Ora Namir, labor and social welfare minister, according to the ministry spokesman.

In a discussion held at the Defense Ministry, it was decided to allow the 5,000 workers to enter Israel. In view of the difficult economic situation and the hardship prevailing in the Gaza Strip, Minister Namir ordered that work permits be issued to Gaza Strip workers only.

At present, some 22,000 workers from the Gaza Strip and 32,000 from Judaea and Samaria are working in Israel.

Demographic, Economic Data for 1993 Published

TA0308181594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Aug 94 p A7

[ITIM report]

[Text] The Israeli population stood at 5.33 million at the beginning of 1994: approximately 4.34 million (about 81.5 percent) Jews and about 989,000 non-Jews (77 percent Muslims, 14 percent Christians, and 9 percent Druze and others).

The territories population stood at over 1.8 million, more than 1 million of whom lived in the West Bank. There were 115,300 Jews living in 136 settlements in the territories at the beginning of 1994. This data features in a new brochure entitled "Israel—Facts and Figures 1994," published by the Publications Service at the Information Center [not further specified].

The main immigration statistics are: Approximately 69,000 immigrants arrived in Israel in 1993. Over 2.35 million Jews from about 130 countries have come to Israel since the state was established.

Approximately 8.71 million Jews live outside Israel, constituting over two-thirds of a total of 13 million Jews worldwide.

The population of the major cities—Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa—stands at 1.2 million, about 28 percent of the total Israeli population. Some 4.7 million people—over 89 percent of the state's population—live in urban Israeli population centers.

Approximately 125,800 people—2.4 percent of the total population—live in kibbutzim, and some 177,000—3.4 percent of the total population—live in moshavim.

Jerusalem, including the new neighborhoods, is the largest city in Israel, both in population and area. Its population stood at 568,000 at the beginning of 1994, including 407,000 Jews and 161,000 non-Jews. About 44 percent of the total population of Jerusalem is under the age of 20, but only 41 percent of the Jewish population is under 20.

Israel's gross domestic product [GDP] grew in 1993, the fourth consecutive year. This fact places the Israeli economy close to the top of the world chart for annual growth. The GDP growth in recent years has been: 5.4 percent in 1990; 6.2 percent in 1991; 6.7 percent in 1992; and 3.5 percent in 1993. The total 1993 GDP stood at 185.3 billion shekels, while the product per capita was over $12,000. The growth is explained by renewed immigration and the relative abundance of import of capital.

The balance of payments deficit stood at $8.1 billion in 1993, reflecting a setback in this area, which is one of the most important indicators of Israel's economic independence. The economy's foreign debt stood at approximately $25.5 billion at the end of 1993.

Cabinet Approves 1995 State Budget Framework

TA0408103794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Text] The cabinet yesterday approved the Treasury's 1995 budget framework, including an NIS [new Israeli shekels] 800 million cut in taxes, NIS 1.6 billion in new spending and a lower budget deficit amounting to 2.75 percent of the gross domestic product.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin modified slightly Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's original proposal to turn the mandatory section requiring tax cuts of NIS 1.2b. both in 1996 and 1997 into a recommendation to follow a pattern of lower taxes in those years. Shohat said the government does not want to tie its hands so far into the future, since it does not know what conditions will be.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid complained that the cabinet should first set budgetary priorities and establish a framework only on them. Shohat responded that, just as a family has to first set its budget limits before choosing how it will spend its money, the government must first set limits, "otherwise everything busts out."

Several ministers, including Economics Minister Shim'on Shetrit, called for imposing a transaction tax on the stock market. Asked if he supported the idea, Shohat said he could not respond, unlike "most ministers who have the privilege of saying what they want about taxing the stock market without having an impact on the stock market."

Shohat said the defense budget would not be increased next year, except for a NIS 250m. addition to finance the

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redeployment of the army in light of the peace agreement with the Palestinians. Despite these changes, next year's budget will still include special intifada funding.

He added that the defense budget would remain at this year's levels adjusted for inflation, but excluding this year's one-time NIS 1.5b. increase. This, however, translates into an actual reduction in the military budget for this year.

Shohat noted that by freezing defense expenditures, the defense burden would continue falling in coming years both in relation to the budget and the GDP.

The cabinet is to meet today in Tel Aviv to review IDF [Israel Defense Forces] budget priorities for next year. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Baraq will present the IDF's needs.

As in previous years, the Treasury is not expected to get involved in the internal apportionment of the defense shekel and will exclusively focus on the budget's impact on the economy and on the rest of the budget.

On Sunday [31 July], the cabinet is to discuss the budget spending priorities for next year. It will have to decide how to allocate the NIS 1.6b. increase in expenditures. However, since the cabinet agreed yesterday to provide NIS 2.5b. in financial assistance to rescue the defense industry, Kupat Holim Klalit, and the kibbutzim, the government will have to cut NIS 900m. from presently budgeted activities.

According to Treasury documents that were provided yesterday to the ministers, the cabinet will have very limited flexibility in changing spending priorities next year. About a third of the budget consists of debt repayments, a second third of social spending, and the remaining third includes defense and other spending. Nevertheless, the Treasury has received requests for additional budgets from every ministry including the Defense Ministry that amounted roughly to NIS 8b. in additional spending.

The defense industries will require between $600m. and $800m. in government assistance in the coming years. Most of next year's aid will go to REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] to pay for the planned reduction in force of 1,000 workers. The government has already spent $300m. on TA'AS-Israel Industries [Israel Military Industries] and $200m. on Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] and has a $260m. obligation to IAI.

Despite the additional income of NIS 1b. that will go to Kupat Holim as a result of the National Health Insurance Law, it will remain with a deficit. The Treasury, however, cannot yet estimate exactly its magnitude, since it will be determined by the basket of health services that will be covered by national health insurance.

The government is planning to begin next year an additional rescue plan for the kibbutzim estimated to cost NIS 5b. All the parties, including the banks, the kibbutzim, and the government are expected to participate, with the government taking up 25 percent of the burden or NIS 1.25b. The first kibbutz arrangement has already cost NIS 4.6b.

SHISHI To Close Down 5 Aug

TA0408051294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The SHISHI weekly has been closed down. Its publisher, the owner of the GLOBES daily, announced to the workers that the last issue will appear tomorrow [5 August]. The newspaper's cultural supplement will continue to appear in a limited form and will be attached to GLOBES' weekend addition. SHISHI was inaugurated nine months ago, after the HADASHOT daily was closed down. It is being closed due to economic difficulties.

Tourism Project Near Temple Mount Approved

TA0408104194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] The second stage of a controversial tourism project near the Temple Mount that has attracted sharp criticism from Moslem leaders was approved last night by the Jerusalem Municipality.

The project calls for the area in front of the Gihon Spring—today dirty and dilapidated—to be turned into a park. The park is slated to be linked to the north by a promenade past the Zekharya and Absolom's Tombs to Gethsemane, on land the Waqf and Arab residents claim.

About 2.5 dunams (0.6 acres) of land in front of the Gihon Spring—in the City of David section of the village of Silwan—are to be expropriated from Silwan residents for the project.

A storehouse by the spring and another storehouse belonging to a nearby school are to be demolished, according to the plan, which is backed by all council factions except Meretz.

The school itself will eventually be moved, once an alternative site is found, said officials with the East Jerusalem Development Authority, which is coordinating the work.

Waqf officials, however, say the project violates the Declaration of Principles, because it would change the status quo in Jerusalem before the city's future is decided in negotiations.

Mayor Ehud Olmert presented the plan before the council, assisted by former deputy mayor for planning Avraham Kahila (One Jerusalem), who initiated the project. It must be approved by the regional planning council before work can begin.

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Authority officials said the final stage of the project, being carried out with the backing of the Tourism Ministry, will include improving vehicle access to the Gihon Spring to the south, through Silwan.

The project will benefit Christians, Moslems, and Jews alike, officials said. For example, they said, Silwan residents who own stores are to be encouraged to cater more to tourists.

Teva Announces 30 Percent Rise in Net Profits

TA0408111994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 94 p 7

[Report by Rachel Neiman]

[Text] Teva yesterday announced a 30 percent increase in second quarter net profits to $18.1 million from $13.92m. during the same period last year.

Revenues rose 17 percent to $146.9m. from $125m., while earnings per NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1 share rose 28 percent to NIS 3.30 from NIS 2.58. Gross margins rose to 44.5 percent from 42 percent.

The country's leading pharmaceutical company said sales were hurt by Kupat Holim's failure to pay its debts. Kupat Holim represents 12 percent of Teva's sales.

Sales to the local private sector rose 34 percent, while sales of raw materials went up 35 percent.

Trading of Teva shares was temporarily halted yesterday on the New York and Tel Aviv stock exchanges following publication of the results, as management met to review its strategy with a team of analysts and brokers.

In Two-Sided trading in Tel Aviv, Teva's shares rose 1.7 percent. On NASDAQ, its shares were up .125 to 29.125 in late afternoon trading.

Teva's receipt of a license to market the active ingredient used in multiple sclerosis treatment Copaxone is expected to significantly increase company profitability.

After a seven-month waiting period, Teva received a license to market a generic version of Clemastine Fumurate Syrup in the US. The estimated value of the market for the syrup is $20 million.

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King Husayn Returns Home, Makes Statements

JN0308204494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Aug 94

[News conference by King Husayn with domestic and foreign correspondents at Marka Airport in Amman upon his return from the United States and United Kingdom on 3 August—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Welcome, sir. Welcome back home.

[Husayn] Jordan is my country. If I am to take pride in anything, particularly in this life, I take pride in my affiliation with this country and with this one large, good, strong, and promising family. I also take pride in my affiliation with those whose heads are raised high and who only bow to God Almighty. The visit was successful, praise be to God. We made a step toward an objective which is dear to us all—a just and comprehensive peace in this region. We also addressed our issues and the present and future needs of this country along with its good people—its elderly, youths, women, and children—who have shouldered a great burden throughout the years and endured what others could not endure. The results were good, God be praised.

[Jordan Television correspondent Kassab Samawi] Sir, what was your feeling when you flew over holy Jerusalem, Jerusalem which you have always loved?

[Husayn] I cannot describe my feelings at those moments. There was a lengthy stay away from Jerusalem. I pray to God that the Jerusalem issue will be addressed in a way that will enable the Palestinian kinsfolk and brothers to be a basic part of the peace process and also in such a way that Jerusalem will be a point of convergence and peace—Israeli-Palestinian, Palestinian-Israeli, and also Arab-Israeli peace.

Regarding the holy places, I sincerely believe that we should exalt and elevate their status, so sovereignty over them all will be that of God Almighty. Consequently, the holy places will be a symbol of peace among the worshipers and believers in God.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Majesty the King: Will you inaugurate the al-'Aqabah-Elat road in the company of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin next week?

[Husayn] I believe I will meet with the Israeli prime minister soon. However, I have not yet been acquainted with the prepared programs to open this new crossing point and this new border post. This is possible. I, however, cannot confirm it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Majesty the King: Following your successful trilateral summit and your talks with both the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress, what is the extent of the U.S. response to the Jordanian military and economic needs?

[Husayn] The response is very good, and it was actually an immediate one. They concluded something regarding the first part of the [Jordanian] debts. There is a promise and a commitment that in three U.S. fiscal years—in other words, the first fiscal year will end, I think, in two months—the debts issue will be addressed in full. Thus, we will not repay anything as of now.

As for modern arms, the restrictions have been lifted, or are about to be lifted, on Jordan's acquisition of any modern arms which it needs to properly reorganize its Armed Forces and Arab [Jordanian] Army.

[Jordan Television correspondent Murid Hammad] Sir, you discussed with the Israeli side the human aspect of the Palestinian people under occupation, particularly the issue of the Palestinian prisoners. Will you please tell us about that?

[Husayn] I will personally do everything I can to ease the burden of our people, brothers, and beloved ones in the occupied territories, particularly the prisoners. I beseech God to grant us success in carrying out our duty toward them.

[Unidentified correspondent] In light of the Jordanian factor, what kind of success do you expect on the Syrian track?

[Husayn] I believe this depends on the real desire for achieving progress. I believe there is commitment by concerned parties and the brothers in Syria. Israel also seems to be doing the impossible to achieve tangible progress and comprehensive peace. Everyone is talking about and is committed to the issue of a comprehensive peace, and we hope it will be achieved.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Hashemites' religious jurisdiction over Jerusalem is now being discussed. Is this due to your majesty's fear that we may lose our historic Arab rights in Jerusalem, to the uncertain political vision in the region, or to plans to restore the role of the Hashemite family?

[Husayn] Sir, it is a recognition of a fact. Jordan's name was linked to Jerusalem through the Jordanians, who sacrificed their lives to save it in 1948, who fought for its sake, and who fell on its soil in 1967. Jerusalem is the burial place of the great al-Husayn, the father of the revolution. His history, his struggle, and his martyrdom for the sake of Palestine are well known both near and far. Up to now, we have not abandoned any duty toward the Islamic awqaf, the holy shrines, and the people in the occupied territories. God honored us by enabling us to carry out some of our duties to repair the holy Dome of the Rock. We are still doing so. This fact is being mentioned even by those whom we fought for long years. In fact, it is extremely tragic to see some people casting doubts, inquiring, and criticizing this. We do not say Palestine or Jerusalem is ours. Palestine is for its people and its owners. But the holy shrines are for the whole Islamic nation because they are Islamic holy shrines. We

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hope God will help us achieve our goals, as well as a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the whole region that can be accepted by future generations.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, by starting to implement the practical arrangements of what was agreed on in Washington, does this mean Jordan will not wait for the other tracks, and what does it mean when it says it will wait for the other tracks through its previous affirmation [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] The final signing is not being discussed now or at this stage. Discussion has always been about matters that have to do with us. We started doing this from the moment we signed the working agenda, immediately following the signing by our Palestinian brothers and Israel of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. We began at that time. The beginning of the march took place following an all-inclusive meeting which comprised all the elected factions in this country and all the elements which represent the people. At that meeting, we decided to wage the peace battle. Then, we went to Madrid and we proceed on that road with all seriousness and determination.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, the martyrs of this homeland, your sons who fight at your side in the peace battle. Their fathers fought with you in the battle of war. What do you have to say to them?

[Husayn] Our martyrs?

[Unidentified correspondent] Our martyrs and their sons?

[Husayn] We tell their sons that those who fell on the road did so with our fathers and forefathers. They will always remain in our hearts. The hope is that they can live a dignified life on their cherished land for which we all are ready to sacrifice ourselves, and I am ready to do so for them.

[Unidentified correspondent] May God bless you.

[Husayn] May God bless you too.

[Unidentified correspondent] Does your passage today in Israeli airspace means that all planes, from now on, will pass through it, or is there...

[Husayn, interrupting] I hope that this issue will be settled very soon. Thus, this will be the natural route.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there something new with respect to the Jerusalem visit?

[Husayn] I have spoken about this issue more than once. I have received several invitations. This has angered some and pleased others. When I decide to visit Jerusalem, I will go as a Hashemite, a Muslim, and as Jordanian, and I will not ask anyone's permission. This is my right. God willing, this will be the right of all.

King Husayn Comments on Flying Over Israel

JN0308201794 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Interview with King Husayn by Murid Hammad upon arriving at Marka Airport in Amman on 3 August—broadcast in progress; recorded]

[Text] [Hammad] ... now, in the aftermath of this historic summit, do you see this new dawn approaching?

[Husayn] I see it approaching indeed, and as far as I am concerned, I've spent all my life struggling, together with the people of Jordan, defending our beliefs, defending what we have always believed is right, but also striving to achieve the kind of peace that would give our people the opportunity to move ahead and to live normally, as opposed to abnormally, which has been the case so far in every aspect and every way.

Today, I flew directly over Israel. For the first time in 46 years, I think, the Jordanian civil carrier has gone there. In terms of time, it is a tremendous saving; in terms of resources, a tremendous saving not only for us or for the other side to the equation, but to the aviation industry in general, to people. So, we are moving, and I hope that with the determination and commitment that is there, we will see progress towards a very, very bright future for our people.

Why are we worried? We are not strangers in this world. We have an educated, qualified, able people. All they need, and all we still need, is a chance to prove themselves, and I believe we can do that.

[Hammad] On the personal level, how did you feel, Your Majesty, flying over the holy land, a place that you are attached to, and you have fought for, for so many years?

[Husayn] Obviously, I was very, very moved and very touched. It was a very emotional experience.

King Receives Cables of Support From Deputies

JN0308203194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a cable of support and loyalty from 12 deputies, who expressed their support for his majesty's blessed steps to regain Jordan's national right to land and water. The cable was signed by the following deputies: 'Abd- al-Razzaq Tubayshat, Fayyad Jarrar, Dr. 'Awad Khulayfat, Dr. Nazih 'Ammarin, Dr. Muhammad Abu-'Alim, Mahmud al-Huwaymil, Muhammad al- Dawudiyah, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Aqtash, Samir al-Habashinah, Muhammad al-Hunayti, Jamal al-Sarayirah, and Jamil al-'Ushush.

The members of the democratic parliamentary grouping at the House of Representatives also stressed their pride in His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership, as well as their support for his majesty in everything that contributes to Jordan's loftiness and progress. This cable was

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signed by the following deputies of the democratic parliamentary grouping: Samir Qa'war, 'Arif al-Batayinah, Ibrahim Shihdah, Anwar al-Hadid, 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Falih Sha'watah, 'Abd Musa al-Nahar, Munir Subar, Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti, Hammad Abu-Jamus, and Salih Irshaydat.

Deputy Jamal al-Khurayshah, head of the national block at the House of Representatives today sent a cable of support and loyalty to His Majesty King Husayn in which he expressed his support and praise and that of the block's deputies for his majesty's steps to preserve the loftiness and strength of King Husayn's Jordan. he also voiced support for his majesty's honorable, courageous positions to regain Jordan's full rights over its land, water, and the Islamic holy shrines, which his majesty continues to safeguard under all circumstances. The block includes deputies 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, Muhammad al-Dhuwayb, Nawwaf al-Qadi, Muhammad 'awdah al-Nijadat, Ibrahim Samarah, Talal 'Ubaydat, Jamil al-'Ushush, Samih al-Farah, and Fayyad Jarrar.

The deputies of the National Action Front at the House of Representatives also sent a cable of support and loyalty to His Majesty King Husayn. The cable expresses their support for the historic step his majesty took, stressing their stand behind his inspired leadership in order to regain Jordan's full rights in land and water. The cable was signed by the following deputies: Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, Dr. Nadir Abu-al-Sha'r, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al- 'Azzam, Miflih al-Ruhaymi al-Harahishah, Khalid 'Abd-al-Nabi al- 'Ajarimah, Lawyer Hatim al-Ghizawi, Fawwaz al-Zu'bi, Dr. Farah al- Rabadi, Dr. Ahmad al-Qudah, Dr. Hani Hijazin, Miflih al-Lawzi, Dr. Ratib al-Sa'ud, Dr. Hashim al-Dabbas, Dr. Fawzi Tu'aymah, Taha al- Habahibah, Fayyad Jarrar, and Engineer 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali.

King's Jerusalem Overflight, U.S. Visit

JN0408105294 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
4-5 Aug 94 p 17

[Editorial: "King Husayn Embraces Jerusalem and the Jordanians Embrace Him"]

[Excerpt] When King Husayn overflew Jerusalem and embraced its holy places and the tomb of al-Sharif Husayn [Bin-'Ali], he was in fact conveying the greetings of the Jordanians, as well as the Arabs and Muslims, who are eager to see the symbol of peace liberated. Peace will not be firm if the holy places are not safeguarded and free.

When the king's plane landed in the homeland, returning from his historic trip and bringing with him the news of success in laying down the general outlines of the sought peace, the aged, women, children, and men were waiting for the king, who returned from the journey of peace he made for our sake and for the sake of the coming generations.

With feelings of pride, as we always show toward him, King Husayn spoke about the success achieved during his journey to meet the needs of this steadfast country whose people made dear sacrifices.

King Husayn, who has always been concerned about the nation, its rights, and future, reiterated that he will continue to exert his utmost to end the suffering of the kinsfolk under the yoke of occupation. The king also reiterated that a just and comprehensive peace is the final objective of the overall peace talks. [passage omitted]

Paper Welcomes Outcome of King's Washington Visit

JN0408104094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 aug 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Blessed Return And Successful Visit"]

[Text] With God's care and blessings, His Majesty King Husayn returned yesterday from his historic visit, flanked by the hearts of the Jordanians who followed, with great admiration, all the major events of that most important trip by King Husayn and welcomed and supported all of its blessed results.

The Washington Declaration, which His Majesty King Husayn signed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, was the most significant result of that visit, especially since it marked a major turning point, not only in the history of Jordan, but also in the life of all peoples of this region.

The king's historic speech at the U.S. Congress, and the valuable meanings it contained, was also another noteworthy indication that confirmed that the visit was successful and achieved all the objectives which all the Jordanians were aspiring for.

The Washington Declaration marked a decisive turning point on the path of the peace process. Equally, King Husayn's historic speech and the positive reactions it generated in both houses of Congress, was also another, no less important, turning point on the path of adjusting the relationship with the United States and restoring health to that important relationship.

In all that, King Husayn was representing the Jordanian people's deep feelings in terms of longing for a just peace and a future better than the situation in which they have been living for several decades. This is why the outcome of this historic visit was received very well by the Jordanians and supported and blessed by all sectors of this big family.

As Husayn returns to us today with his head high, he finds to his side those people, whom Husayn himself urged to keep their heads high and bow them only to God. He also finds that his one big family holds all

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feelings of love, support, and loyalty to him. Husayn has always known these feelings and was guided by them in all circumstances.

Welcome to Husayn, the Arab Hashemite leader who devoted himself to his nation and who holds the nation's great concerns in his big heart. Certainly the people of Husayn will remain as they have always been, united behind and beside the leader to continue the blessed march and reap all of its benefits, God willing.

U.S. Congress To Write Off 'All' Debts

JN0408104794 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 7

[Report by the financial editor]

[Text] Government sources have confirmed to AL-ASWAQ that the United States has decided to write off all Jordanian debts owed to it, with the exception of loan guarantees, which are not usually written off, as these sources put it, particularly since these guarantees have not thus far been used.

The sources added that the U.S. Congress decided to write off $696 million, which is the total of U.S. loans to Jordan, with the exception of loan guarantees, which total some $250 million. The sources explained that the U.S. decision called for writing off these debts over three years, with $232 million dollars to be written off in each of the following years: 1994, 1995, and 1996. Indeed, Congress decided to write off $232 million last week, the sources noted.

This U.S. decision came about as part of the regional peaceful settlement, and as a reward for the parties concerned. The U.S. President promised rewards for these parties at the Washington Declaration signing ceremony. The United States also interceded with the Paris Club to reschedule a large part of the Jordanian debts owed to the club members.

U.S. Navy To Pay 'Courtesy Call' to al-'Aqabah

JN0408092994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 25

[Text] Amman—A U.S. Navy vessel will today arrive in al-'Aqabah. The ship is one of three ships which will arrive in al-'Aqabah next week on a courtesy call to Jordan.

The visit falls within the context an official program aiming at entrenching U.S.-Jordanian ties in various fields.

Telephone Links To Israel Possible 'Next Week'

JN0408092594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Aug p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff correspondent]

[Text] Amman—Telephone lines between Jordan and Israel could be opened as early as next week with the issuance of a government decision in line with the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on July 25, officials said Wednesday [3 August].

They said the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), which has been studying its options of linking phone lines with the Palestinian territories after the signing of Israeli-Palestinian autonomy deal in September, had finalised all technical preparations for the opening of the phone lines with Israel.

Telecommunications Minister Hashim al-Dabbas was quoted as saying by the Associated Press than "we're technically ready to open the lines. We're awaiting a political decision from the higher levels on the timing."

Officials said the Council of Ministers had not taken up discussing the issue as a formal topic, but a decision could be taken in one session of the Cabinet and the lines could become operational next week.

They said a possibility was the formal opening of the lines along with the inauguration of a border crossing near al-'Aqabah and ylat in a meeting attended by King Husayn, Mr. Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Aug. 8.

Experts pointed out that the opening of the lines was a relatively simple technical procedure since all other international infrastructure for direct dialing exist in both countries. "It will take only the flick of a switch," said one expert.

Israel opened its side of the dialing facility more than a year ago in a unilateral move rejected by Jordan.

"We have been studying the various options available to us since Israel and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) signed the autonomy agreement," said a senior official. "Our focus was on a linkage between the Palestinian territories and Jordan."

However, such a linkage no longer seems to be in the cards in view of the apparent apathy of the PLO leadership in cooperating with Jordan, political observers say.

With the arrangement with Israel, calls to the Palestinian self-rule areas as well as the rest of the occupied West Bank have to go through the Israeli switchboard. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is seeking a separate international dialing code and a separation of the phone lines in the territories from the Israeli system.

At present, subscribers on both sides of the river could call each other through systems set up in Cyprus, some European countries and the United States. But such calls are not authorised by the Government of Jordan.

For some weeks last year, callers from the occupied territories as well as Israel could dial Jordan direct, but the system was terminated on the Israeli side for internal reasons, reports from Israel said.

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Opening direct dialing between Jordan and Israel is part of a series of the measures stipulated in the Washington Declaration. Others include the opening of border crossing for third country nationals and linking the power grids of the two countries so that they could help each other to meet peak-hour demands.

"Linking the power grids is not going to be an overnight affair," said another source. "It needs proper studies on the pros and cons, and preparations that could take some time."

Ambassador to Egypt on Dispute Over Jerusalem

NC0408075694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Sa'ud Nayif al-Qadi, Jordan's ambassador in Cairo and its permanent representative to the Arab League, has affirmed that his country has no problem with the Palestinians over Jerusalem and that it will not negotiate with Israel over Jerusalem.

In an interview published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM today, the Jordanian ambassador denies reports about the existence of Jordanian territory in Jerusalem. He stressed that Jordan has no designs on a single inch of land in Jerusalem or the Palestinian territories.

He pointed out that his country's stand distinguishes between Jordanian supervision of the holy places in past decades and territorial and political sovereignty over Jerusalem. He affirmed that it is the right of the PLO to negotiate over Jerusalem and to recover it, along with the rest of the West Bank.

Sa'ud al-Qadi expressed surprise that the Palestinians are making an issue of the relations between Jordan and Palestine at a time when they are talking about their hopes of setting up a confederacy between the two countries. He warned that there are other sides with designs at the expense of Jordan and Palestine.

Answering a question on the possibility that Jordan will continue to provide religious supervision of the holy places when negotiations start and Jerusalem is returned to Palestinian authority, the Jordanian ambassador said that in that case, the state that has sovereignty over Jerusalem will dictate the course of action, as is their right.

The Jordanian ambassador affirmed that it is his country's supervision of the holy places that has protected these places since 1967. He wondered about the significance of asking Jordan to stop now and who will supervise Jerusalem until negotiations on this issue start between the PLO and Israel.

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Al-Hirawi Holds Meeting on Christopher Tour

MM0308115994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Tariq Tarshishi: "In Preparation for Christopher Tour and Anticipating Breakthroughs, Lebanese Leaders Meet for First Time After Settlement of Disputes"]

[Text] Beirut—In the framework of preparing for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region next week, and assessing all the developments concerning the peace process, President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met in the Republican Palace in B'abda yesterday. It is their first meeting since the leadership problems and disputes that have marked the past two months.

Authoritative Lebanese sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Lebanese authorities have received information about ideas which Christopher is bringing with him to the region during his tour. They inspire the belief that he could succeed this time in initiating progress on the Syrian-Israeli track and hence the Lebanese-Israeli track.

The sources pointed out that what President al-Hirawi proposed in his speech on Army Day the day before yesterday, namely a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in return for Lebanon's pledge to control security in that region, is a proposal coordinated with the U.S. sponsor of the peace talks, since Washington is not distant from it [laysat ba'idah 'anhu]. And it is being said that it was Washington which suggested that President al-Hirawi announce this before the arrival of Christopher, who is seeking to secure Syrian-Israeli agreement on a timetable for withdrawal from the Golan and on normalizing relations between Syria and Israel.

The Lebanese sources pointed out that Lebanon has no objection to a gradual Israel withdrawal from the south because it believes that that is of utmost benefit for it at the domestic level—insofar as that kind of withdrawal can lead to the gradual control of the south, as the army would deploy immediately in every area from which Israel withdraws, thereby preventing any complications similar to those caused by the Israeli withdrawal from Jabal Lubnan in 1984.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information says that the three leaders, who have discussed all the developments related to the peace process and the steps taken by the state to reinforce domestic conditions in order to accommodate peace requirements, are expected to visit Damascus after the end of Christopher's upcoming tour. They exclude the possibility of this tour including Lebanon this time.

Advises Wait-and-See Attitude

NC0308122894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri made remarks as he was leaving his office a short time ago. He said no political settlement can be made at Lebanon's expense and there can be no peace without it.

He urged waiting for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in the region to see what ideas he will bring.

Al-Hariri said: We must not jump to conclusions.

Buwayz on Christopher Tour, Buenos Aires Bombing

NC0408063894 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Lebanon might lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council over the Israeli siege of Yuhmur. The Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Relations Committee met yesterday under Dr. Amin al-Hafiz and in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and recommended that a complaint be lodged with the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Minister Buwayz spoke about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region. He said: The information we obtained during Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Lebanon indicates that the U.S. secretary of state is coming to stress that the agreements concluded with the PLO and Jordan were not aimed at isolating Syria and Lebanon or giving preference to unilateral solutions, but marked some progress in the negotiations. According to al-Shar', Christopher will bring new ideas about a possible withdrawal and its timetable. But Minister Buwayz stressed that we are not expecting surprises or quick developments on the Syrian track. He added that many issues need time and detailed negotiations.

Regarding the Buenos Aires explosion, Minister Buwayz said that the Argentine Government's behavior was naive and superficial, because it relied on a report carried by an international news agency, which does not constitute legal evidence.

Germany's Criticism of Suspect's Release Rejected

NC0308124294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Chief Prosecutor Munif 'Uwaydat has rejected Germany's criticism of Lebanon for not renewing an arrest warrant against a Palestinian Germany wants extradited for bombing a nightclub in Berlin.

'Uwaydat was commenting on a statement by the Justice Ministry in Berlin that Yasir al-Shuraydi, against whom an arrest warrant was issued by a Berlin public prosecutor in 1990, had been released in Lebanon.

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'Uwaydat said he asked the German authorities to supply him with a full dossier on the charges leveled against al-Shuraydi so that he could study the charges and recommend to the Lebanese Government that it extradite him to Germany. But the German authorities have not yet complied with Lebanon's request.

'Uwaydat said Lebanon is always prepared to cooperate with any state to study any extradition request. But the extradition request must be complete from the legal viewpoint.

Al-Shuraydi Said Still Held

NC0408070894 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Like Germany, the United States has criticized the release by Lebanese authorities of Palestinian Yasir al-Shuraydi, accused of bombing a Berlin nightclub in 1986. State Department Spokesman Michael McCurry said the release of al-Shuraydi is inexplicable and unjustifiable. He added: We have told the Lebanese Government that it is in its interest to keep track of the defendant. He indicated that al-Shuraydi is no longer under direct security control.

Chief Public Prosecutor Munif 'Uaydat yesterday stressed that al-Shuraydi is still under arrest in accordance with a third arrest warrant after two previous arrest warrants had expired.

Hizballah Statement on 'U.S., Zionist Threats'

NC0408094794 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 30 Jul 94 p 4

[Statement issued by the Hizballah leadership following an extraordinary meeting; place and date not given]

[Text] The past few days have been marked by a mobilization campaign coupled with U.S. and Zionist threats against Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance with the aim of inciting the world and preparing the atmosphere for a new aggression after introducing feeble and unrealistic excuses and pretexts. In light of this escalating campaign and the preparations accompanying it the Hizballah leadership would like to state the following:

1. Hizballah is not ashamed of its lawful and heroic Resistance and its energetic and continuous efforts, which constitute part of a legitimate struggle and a sacred duty carried out by the Lebanese people on their land to defeat aggression and occupation. We speak clearly and proudly about the achievements of our Resistance and consider these achievements a downpayment on the road to the liberation of our nation and people.

2. The Zionist enemy has failed to defeat our Resistance or to disarm it, despite all its attacks and barbaric practices. These attacks and blows have only served to increase the Resistance steadfastness, to firmly entrench it on the ground, and make all the political, popular, and official forces rally round it. Through its intelligence services and in full cooperation with the United States, the Zionist enemy is trying now to fabricate charges to libel the Resistance and its holiness by accusing it of terrorism. This is being done through orchestrated and fabricated campaigns in front of the world.

These campaigns cannot distort the image of the Resistance. Nor can they undermine Resistance sacrifices or our right to confront Zionist occupation and arrogance. Threats will not stop us from pursuing the road of struggle and confrontation. We stress we will continue to pursue this course, which we have adopted freely and willingly.

3. This rabid campaign is designed to divert attention from Zionist terrorism and the massacres with which the history of this Zionist enemy is replete. These include the Erez checkpoint massacre, the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, the assassination of Hizballah Secretary General martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi and his wife and son, the Dayr Yasin massacre, and other daily massacres in the south and western al-Biqa' and the rest of the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories. The current U.S. attempts to whitewash the records of the Zionist enemy and to benefit from the Washington carnival at which the King of Jordan signed a document of recognition of and surrender to the Zionist entity on the heels of Yasir 'Arafat's surrender will deceive no one. The ugly Zionist face will remain the face that characterizes this entity even if the United States expunges from the UN records the resolution equating Zionism with racism by using its influence and hegemony over world organizations.

4. The statements issued by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday are not new in as much as they are blatant and crude. This U.S. diplomat lost his diplomatic equilibrium and has used the language of a gangster, thus proving that the claims and accusations lack any logic and evidence, but are part of a political campaign to justify a policy of aggression.

We regard Christopher's statements as a full cover for the Zionist entity to launch a new large-scale aggression against Lebanon, its people, and Resistance. We hold the United States responsible for any Zionist aggression against Lebanon's noble soil and its proud people before local and world public opinion and before all international, humanitarian, and legal organizations.

Christopher's statements also reveal Washington's determination to launch a war against all those who oppose its policy, specifically in our region. Such a policy is unacceptable. No one can justify Washington's military, political, and even economic campaigns against the opponents of its policy or the encirclement of these opponents, especially those who seek freedom, independence, and a dignified life without the hegemony of Washington and its tools.

5. We urge the governments of Argentina and Britain—the scene of explosions—not to join in supporting the U.S.-Zionist campaign against Hizballah and the Islamic

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Resistance by submitting to the pressures and blackmail exerted by the governments of Washington and Tel Aviv and their security organs on London and Buenos Aires through accusations that Britain and Argentina have been remiss in protecting Zionist and Jewish centers. We hope the British and Argentine Governments will resist the blackmail attempts, will not submit to the Zionist-U.S. campaign, and will not help, willingly or unwillingly, to market the aggression and cover it up. We urge them to verify the accuracy of the accusations and not to get involved in stances and accusations that will harm their relations with the peoples of the region and put them in the corner of hostility to these peoples without getting anything in return.

6. To the Lebanese people, who continue to show more awareness, wisdom, responsibility, and unity of rank, especially in times of challenge, we stress that this new escalation falls within the same known context that aims to influence the firmness of the stance and to impose the conditions that suit the enemy in the false peace and allow him to subjugate the region and control its fate without allowing us or this region's peoples to retrieve even the minimum of rights and dignities.

We affirm that we will remain loyal to the trust of Resistance. Any U.S.-Zionist aggression that takes place will not be a picnic and will not remain without an appropriate response. The Resistance, which continues to prove its ability, warns the enemy and his backer of the consequences of involvement in any adventure; it will fare no better than the adventures of the past.

The Islamic Resistance mujahidin, who proved in every confrontation that they stand proud and firm like a mountain, are today standing with the same firmness, solidarity, and strength as they experience the new challenge. They have pledged to their people and nation to create glory, freedom, pride, and dignity and are extending their unsoiled hands to their faithful kinsmen and to the sincere and patient people so as to unite stances and rank and achieve victory together as in the past.

Israel Shells South; Red Cross Enters Yuhmur

NC0308132594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Tension prevailed in south Lebanon today. Approximately 20 rounds fell in the outskirts of the townships of al-Mansurah and al-'Adliyah this morning. The bombardment targeted Bra'shit and Tibnin in the central sector for 45 minutes, beginning at 1230.

Hizballah earlier claimed responsibility for a rocket attack against a South Lebanese Army radar position. There are no reports on casualties.

Meanwhile, a Red Cross convoy entered the besieged township of Yuhmur on foot this morning. The inhabitants, however, refused to receive the aid and medicines and called for lifting the siege on their village.

Editor Contemplates Cost of 'Royal Peace'

NC0308205994 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial by Talal Salman: "Royal Peace, Wonderful"]

[Text] For almost half a century, the Arab citizen footed the heavy bill for the war with Israel. A reduced standard of living and eroding civil rights were his grim rewards. In a fast changing world, this same Arab citizen is now called upon to foot the bill for peace with Israel, undoubtedly a costlier affair. This Arab citizen may now have to pay, in addition to his dignity, his remaining rights to land and a future for his children on that land. The conditions are clear; the payment is in advance.

Strategy being a royal privilege, let us consider the humbler affairs of water, electricity, telephones, roads, security, economy, and finally democracy, all of which we have been told will be the fruits of peace.

Our citizens, deprived of electricity in the "national era," will now get power supplied from Israel. In return, they will have to pay to Israel, politely and gratefully, the price of this service. In other words, they will be paying not only for the service but for the privilege of having less control over their own affairs.

Our citizens, for whom the ownership of an office telephone that actually works is a dream, will, at the proper price, be able to pick up the receiver and get their call through with the magic touch of a finger. Maybe—if they wish—they will then reserve a hotel room in Haifa or a restaurant table in Jaffa or Tel Aviv.

Our people, not used to the joyful sight of water running from their taps, although they read in the daily newspapers about massive expenditures going to water purification plants and water pipe networks, will be able to quench their thirst with good water profitably supplied by Israeli companies.

Highways, the sight of which are only known to us on movie screens, will soon grace our mountains, soar across our rivers, and wind their way through our valleys, abolishing distances and condensing time.

As for security, Israel will assume the role of a central government with local leaders acting as policemen on the beat.

The economy. Well, that is a foregone conclusion; what with the Jews being the world's financial wizards and all.

Let us turn to democracy, once a forbidden fruit for the Arab citizen, a diabolical luxury, a debilitating plague that may weaken his faith in his historic leadership, a temptation that may lure him into the arms of the enemy and burst a hole in the steadfast "wall." The much-maligned democracy is now a condition for peace. Its proponents say it will give peace a foundation of true popular will, expressed in fraud-free elections.

Was not Israel's image distorted and were not its qualities perverted in the minds of our gullible citizens? As of

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now Israel is rehabilitated, not only as an oasis of democracy, but as the gate for Arab progress toward a better future.

Democracy will be blown our way, from Israel. A double-faced democracy that the ruler will wear as it suits him. This side for peace, the other for war. The democracy-miser will be transformed into a democracy-giver, but remain a ruler.

Jews were never known for frivolity or big spending. Actually they are known for being money-crazed, flesh-slicing usurers. The question is how our "citizen" will pay for the promised peace? In the past, he used to pay to his ruler the price of presumed protection from Israel. Now, he is going to reward the ruler for his peace-bringing efforts, for flinging the doors wide open to progress, democracy, and sweetheart Israel. He will also have to pay the master of his much-changed-but-still-the-same ruler.

The peace of kings is a much costlier affair than the wars of the poor. "Check one set of people by means of another. The earth would indeed be full of mischief, but God is full of bounty to all." [Koranic verse]

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Press on 'Comprehensive Peace,' Christopher Visit

JN0408090194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH underscores Syrian and Lebanese efforts to bring about just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Such peace is viable and durable. It underlines the Syrian and Lebanese concern not to see the peace talks derailed before their desired objective is achieved.

The paper addresses the negative aspects of separate and partial solutions, saying: Such solutions cannot achieve a durable, true, and firm peace, because they are far removed from the spirit of fairness, compliance with international legitimacy, and comprehensiveness which is a must if a solution is to encompass the entire region.

The paper adds: The upcoming tour of the region by Warren Christopher is further evidence of the U.S. Administration's belief that a comprehensive solution in the region is yet to be achieved. Christopher has undoubtedly sensed Syria's full readiness to cooperate for the sake of achieving just and comprehensive peace. Syria, unlike Israel, has always sought a just and comprehensive peace grounded in the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the relevant UN resolutions, full respect for sovereignty, the inviolability of territories, and the dignity of peoples. Any other version of peace cannot be called peace. It cannot win the hearts and minds of peoples, nor can it achieve stability and security and protect the rights and dignity of all sides.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Nobody should expect Syria and Lebanon to accept the tactics used by others, in terms of the violation of the ground rules set for the peace process, the holding of behind-the-scenes negotiations, and the achievement of partial and separate deals or flawed solutions that abandon rights and territories and seriously compromise national and pan-Arab interests. Syria and Lebanon will not accept what others have endorsed, regardless of the circumstances entailed. The Syrian and Lebanese positions have remained unchanged with regard to the peace that should give all rights to their lawful owners. Such a peace should nullify occupation, cherish fairness, and safeguard dignity, as His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad said in his recent address to our valiant Armed Forces. This statement by al-Asad is a spotlight in this bleak Arab environment.

Under the headline "Separate Deals and Israeli Humiliation," the newspaper TISHRIN says: 'Arafat has recently discovered a host of facts confirming that the Cairo autonomy talks are only a waste of time, and that he experiences daily Israeli humiliations. These confessions by 'Arafat were recently made to the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ.

TISHRIN adds: The humiliations 'Arafat is currently experiencing are a continuation of the humiliations he has experienced since the signing of the Oslo accord. But, 'Arafat chose not to heed these humiliations in the past, because he wanted to consummate the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord, which has allowed Israel to perpetuate its occupation of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip; to oversee security and political affairs; to control crossing points, bridges, roads, sea routes, and airspace; and to keep the settlements in place. By accepting limited self-rule, the 'Arafat leadership has endorsed Israel's acquisition and control of the territories.

The paper goes on to say: The feelings currently experienced by 'Arafat are the natural outcome of his acceptance of separate deals, of his renunciation of the Arab unity of ranks, and of his willful decision to undermine this unity of ranks by accepting elusive Israeli proposals and ideas that are detrimental to the Palestinian people and their legitimate national rights.

TISHRIN says: The concessions the Palestinian leadership has made have prompted the Palestinian people, thanks to their patriotic sentiments, militant experience, and pan-Arab affiliation, to reject the Gaza-Jericho accord, and its results. Similarly, these concessions have made them adhere to their objectives, aspirations, and the intifadah, which embodies their hope for regaining all their rights. Consequently, they will redouble their efforts to thwart this accord and eliminate its tools and annexes, as well as its impact, which is detrimental to the Palestine question, the homeland, and the cause of peace.

Under the headline "Getting Out of the Cycle of Absurdity," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It is only natural for Syria to reject the twisted tactics Israel is pursuing to derail the peace process. Likewise, it is also natural for Syria to oppose any settlement that consecrates the occupation of any part of the occupied Arab territories. Additionally, it is natural for Syria to reject the Israeli ideas that seek to evade the requirements of peace, undermine pan-Arab will, and lay the groundwork for separate deals that cannot bring security and stability to the region, but rather sow the seeds of further serious conflicts and maintain and exacerbate tension.

The paper reiterates that Syria has always underscored the need for a just and comprehensive solution. Additionally, U.S. Secretary of State Christopher has sensed Syria's adherence to the goal of achieving a just and comprehensive peace, and to the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, which provide for the withdrawal of Israeli troops and settlers to the pre-June 5, 1967 borderlines.

The paper adds: Syria will not get involved in any secret or separate deals. It would like to reiterate its constant willingness to cooperate with any U.S. effort designed to bring the peace process back on track and expedite the achievement of its objective. The paper urges the U.S. cosponsor of the peace process to put an end to Israeli procrastination, which is willing to waste time and efforts indefinitely.

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Afghanistan

Roundup of Kabul Radio Battle Reports 1-3 Aug

Militia Positions Said Captured

LD0108191194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militia have lost six fortified positions in Kowt-e 'Ashrow in Meydan Province. An Armed Forces source told the Bakhtar Information Agency that yesterday and this morning these militia mounted an unsuccessful attack on mojahedin positions in Meydan Province. The militia's attack was beaten off, thanks to heroic resistance by the mojahedin. The Karmal-Golboddin-Dostammilitia suffered loss of life.

In a counter-attack, the mojahedin were able to capture six fortified positions of the militia and to capture some of their light and heavy weapons.

The source added: To prevent their men escaping from the battlefield and to raise the morale of their militia, the commanders of the Golboddin-Dostam militia mounted an unsuccessful attack from which the militia gained nothing but shame and defeat.

7 Said Injured in Rocket Attack

LD0208161294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Over the past 24 hours the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia fired 86 rockets and mortar shells into the residential areas of Kabul. A Kabul garrison source told BAKHTAR that last night Golboddin-Dostum militia fired 86 rockets and mortar shells into residential areas and civilian public utility installations. As a result of those savage attacks seven residents of Kabul City were injured. A number of houses have also been damaged.

Deputy Commander Killed

LD0208162294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] With sorrow we received a report that Mohammad Akbar, deputy commander of the 36th Division in Logar Province, was martyred as a result of the explosion of a mine placed in his vehicle by the enemies of Islam. Verily we come from Allah unto whom we return. [preceding sentence in Arabic] Martyred Mohammad Akbar was deputy commander of the 36th Division of Logar Province. He was a prominent campaigner of Islam and rendered valuable services during jihad against the occupying forces of Russia and also against the militia. Hundreds of the residents of the area and mojahedin of Logar Province participated in his burial ceremony.

Militia Attack Said Repulsed

LD0308163894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] A big offensive of Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia was crushed in Kowt-e 'Ashrow. Reports received by Bakhtar Information Agency say that last night Golboddin's militia launched attacks on the positions of the Islamic army in Kowt-e 'Ashrow, provincial capital of Wardag. In the offensive, 41 men of Captain Amanollah and Commander Zardad were killed and five militiamen were taken prisoner by the Islamic army. (?Six PKs), five rocket launchers and 13 Kalashnikovs were captured. The report adds that over [words indistinct] all security posts of the Kowt-e 'Ashrow area have been conquered by the Islamic army [words indistinct]. According to another an ammunition depot of the militia caught fire in [word indistinct] area. [words indistinct]

'Intense Fighting' Around Dowshi

LD0308200994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] In the fighting around Dowshi, the Dostam militia has so far left behind 700 dead or injured.

The correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency writes that Dostam, commanding a force of several thousand, arrived around Baghlan Province two weeks ago and began the fighting against the forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. In starting the fighting, Dostam regarded this battle as destiny-making. He did not accept Golboddin's view that Konduz was the place from where the fighting should start. Dostam began the fighting intending to close the road to Shir Khan. The report adds that Dostam failed to advance in this direction. Instead, the Islamic forces seized four tanks, destroyed several others, and shot down one helicopter.

(?The militia) forcibly dispatches youths from the northern provinces to the battlefield in Dowshi without military training or even knowledge about military tactics. These men are used as cannon fodder and as result most of them have either been killed or captured by the forces of the Islamic army. This attitude of Dostam has aroused enormous discontent among these youths' families.

[Words indistinct] So far 25 planeloads of the militia's dead have been transported to Mazar-e Sharif from Dowshi. The mass media has not yet reported the forcible dispatch of youths [three words indistinct]

It is reported that Dostam has used his maximum military potential to avenge his defeats in Tappeh-ye and Bala Hesar. Tappeh-ye and Bala Hesar were recently conquered by the military forces of the Islamic army and a large area was cleared of the Golboddin-Dostam militias.

The progress of fighting and attack on Dowshi during the past few days has disappointed the Golboddin-Dostam coalition [words indistinct] which was called by them as destiny-making fighting.

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The observers believe that crushing defeat of militias in Dowshi will most probably bring about (?changes) in the military-political structure of militias in the near future.

Intense fighting is still going on. The forces of the Islamic army are in a defensive position and have not yet started counter-attacks. It is likely that the advancing attacks by the Islamic army will begin and once again revive the memory of the past decisive battles, the examples of which were seen in Tappeh-ye and Bala Hesar, [words indistinct] will determine the faith of this fighting too.

India

'Clandestine' Radio Said Transmitting Into Kashmir

Broadcasting 'Propaganda'

BK0308143094 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 1 Aug 94 p 5

[Text] Jammu—Pakistan has again whipped up propaganda against India on Kashmir in a renewed bid to counter Indian viewpoint on Kashmir at the international as well on the domestic front.

Pakistan has set up some clandestine radio stations all along line of actual control (LAC) in Pak-occupied-Kashmir [PoK] from where anti-India propaganda is used to motivate people to rise up against India in the name of "jehad" and "azadi."

These radios have powerful transmitters. Most programmes are put out in English, Kashmiri, Urdu, Pahari, Dogri, Punjabi etc.

Pakistan TV is also blaring out several new programmes which project, among other things, the growing dissent among intellectuals on the issue of right of self determination for Kashmiri people.

In a programme named Spectrum, the participants spoke about the growing disagreement among Indian intellectuals, with increasing number of them disagreeing with Government of India on its stand on Kashmir.

According to them more and more intellectuals are building up public opinion in India that "Kashmir cannot be held within the Union of India for long" and aspirations of Kashmiri people have to be "respected for a lasting peace."

The programme also projected that both ruling and opposition parties in Pakistan now view the Kashmir issue from only one angle and that is accession of Kashmir to Pakistan.

Another aspect which Pakistan propaganda highlights is that the people of Kashmir had been deprived of high positions in the government, in the state as well as outside the state.

Interestingly efforts are also being made through electronic media to make people believe that PoK has witnessed greater development than Jammu and Kashmir.

The participants in "Spectrum" admitted that Pakistan resources are being utilised in propagating the viewpoint of the people of Kashmir at international level while reiterating Pakistan's commitment to provide political and moral support to the militants.

Pakistan government has been spending millions of Rupees on anti- India propaganda.

Pakistan media, however, has been playing down the well- established fact of supplying arms and ammunition. Thousands of sophisticated weapons and huge ammunition supplied by Pakistan to militants, which have been recovered in Kashmir, speak of Pakistan's deep involvement to step up militancy in Jammu and Kashmir in the name of "jehad".

About 150 such foreign mercenaries have been captured while about 200 have been killed in various encounters.

One serial after another is being telecast on TV, which mainly distort facts and history.

Interestingly, the discontent prevailing among the people of PoK has not been talked about in Pakistani television and radio.

TV Programs Used as Well

BK0408114494 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 1 Aug 94 p 7

[From the "JAGRAN News Center"]

[Text] Jammu, 31 July—Pakistan has intensified its propaganda campaign that Kashmir is not an integral part of India. Under the campaign, it shows in its various programs that India is thinking about leaving Kashmir and that it will be free very soon. Pakistan has set up new transmitters in the border areas for this propaganda campaign.

According to an official spokesman, Pakistan Television has started many new programs in which statements by Indian journalists, intellectuals, and leaders are broadcast favoring a plebiscite in Kashmir. Recently, the number of such programs has increased. One of these programs showed both ruling and opposition leaders in Pakistan sitting together. They expressed confidence that India is thinking in terms of giving freedom to Kashmir and the day is not far off when India will end its occupation.

Other Pakistani propaganda says that Muslims in India are not appointed to top or special posts—not only in Kashmir, but in all of India. More propaganda being carried out vigorously says that development schemes in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have increased, while there is no such thing in Kashmir. The spokesman said that

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Pakistan is carrying out such propaganda not only in the border areas, but in foreign countries as well.

Iran

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets ROK Delegation

LD0308213994 Tehran IRNA in English 2054 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—The visiting South Korean parliamentary delegation led by Kim Chong-nam and Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi here today discussed ways to expand Tehran-Seoul ties.

In the meeting Hashemi referred to "the existing political will" for strengthening of relations between the two countries and stressed on promotion of ties through an upcoming joint commission between the two sides. He also expressed hope that the two Koreas would overcome the existing tension in the Korean peninsula through peaceful means.

Kim thanked the Iranian Government and nation for the warm welcome and promised to direct his efforts towards paving the way for expansion of relation between the two countries. He also noted that his country is interested in cooperation and in bringing about "a serious understanding" between the two Koreas.

Kim, head of the South Korean parliamentary friendship group arrived here Monday. He has so far met with Iran's parliamentary speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and also with his Iranian counterpart Zali.

Expelled German Reportedly Admits to 'Spying'

NC0408064694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] German spy Helmut Szimkus, who was expelled from Iran one month ago, has confessed for the first time in his country that he spied for the United States and Iraq. In previous interviews with the Western press he had denied that he was engaged in spying.

AFP reports that in an interview with FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, Szimkus stated that during the hostage-taking of the American spies in Tehran he was assigned by Washington to gather information on the situation of the hostages. In the interview he also stresses that during the Iran-Iraq war he gathered information for America and Iraq.

Following the publication of Helmut Szimkus's interview in Germany, a spokesman for the German chancellor expressed surprise over his remarks and said that Szimkus had always denied his involvement in spying.

Argentina Said To Suspect Israel in Bombing

LD0308185594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1702 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A fortnight after the explosion at the Argentine-Zionist regime [Israeli] Mutual Association [AMIA] and the discovery of a number of facts surrounding this matter, the Argentine Government has announced that it has withdrawn its allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Announcing this, the Argentine foreign minister added: There are no indications of Iranian involvement in this explosion. Before his trip to the United Nations last week to discuss this issue in the Security Council, he unreservedly blamed the Islamic Republic of Iran; in his speech recently, however, he said that he does not believe Iran was linked to the explosion. Argentine President Carlos Menem too has pointed out that the investigation into this matter is continuing and said that he has become convinced that Argentine citizens were involved in the incident.

Not long after the explosion in the Jews' gathering place in Buenos Aires, the Argentine Government announced that certain big powers were pressuring it to accuse a particular country or group of involvement in the incident. At that time, the governments of America, Britain, and the Zionist regime began an unprecedented propaganda hue and cry and pointed accusing fingers at the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since they themselves admitted that they had no evidence for their claim, they continued their adverse propaganda against Iran and Islamic groups.

This false propaganda led public opinion in many parts of the world to believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic groups were involved in the explosion in Argentina and the later explosion outside the embassy of the Zionist regime in London. Now, however, two weeks after making political capital out of their propaganda and trying to discredit the Islamic Republic of Iran and Lebanese resistance groups on the international scene, the waves of propaganda of Western and Zionist media have suddenly fallen silent. The news of the withdrawal of allegations against Iran has received very little coverage, just as existing evidence on the possible involvement of the Zionist regime in those incidents has not received much coverage either.

In any case, the suspicion of the involvement of Israel's espionage organization in the explosion at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires is gradually taking hold in the minds of the world's public and in the minds of the Argentine authorities. They have asked Israeli officials numerous questions, to which they have not yet received convincing answers. One of these questions is why, exceptionally, were none of the officials of the Zionist regime present at the site of the explosion on the day concerned? Why had all the files and documents stored in the building been transferred to another site? Furthermore, where did they get their information to be sure of later explosions taking place, including those in London?

In any case, apportioning blame to nations is considered to be most unworthy. As the officials of our country, including the esteemed head of the judiciary, have

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emphasized, these allegations—which impugn the honor of a nation—must be investigated legally in international forums.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Diplomats

NC0408063694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking to a group of chiefs of the Islamic Republic's diplomatic missions abroad, stressed that the complete unity and steadfastness of the Islamic Republic of Iran has made its enemies lose hope of harming it. Emphasizing that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a great historical event in the world, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: The world of arrogance is still either unable or unwilling to understand the lofty aspirations and objectives of this revolution, because the holy Islamic system is based on religion and religious beliefs. That is why they oppose it with all their might.

Referring to the U.S. secretary of state's recent remarks on the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: The rude and hasty approach by the leaders of a superpower that proclaims the existence of a new world order and rallies its allies on an issue about which it lacks proof attests to the faction of blasphemy's unity in mounting a propaganda onslaught against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Stating that the enemies have now lost hope of harming the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the inauguration of the immense petrochemical complex at Imam Khomeyni port is important proof of this, adding: While foreign experts considered further work on this project uneconomical and impossible, our country's committed experts reconstructed and completed this immense complex in a way that foreign companies found difficult to believe, albeit praiseworthy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani listed a reduction in the need for foreign exchange; growth in the production of raw materials needed by the country's industries and other sectors; the implementation of immense and complicated technical and industrial projects; the reconstruction of war damage; and full reliance on domestic forces as some of the successes scored by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the era of reconstruction. He pointed out: Naturally the enemies are not happy with this process and with the immense gains of the Islamic revolution and have opened a strong propaganda front against us.

Radio Comments on Remarks

NC0408072594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Last night President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran spoke to a gathering of the heads of Islamic Iran's diplomatic representations abroad, discussing important developments and Iran's noteworthy progress in the economic and political fields.

Our president said that the behavior of the enemies of Islam and of the revolution stems from their spiteful reaction to two outstanding characteristics of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The first characteristic is the Islamic and ideological dimension of the revolution, which has placed the revolution among the biggest historic events in the world and has opened up new vistas to the world. While the modern civilizations of the world are helpless in their efforts to meet spiritual needs and have created a spiritual crisis that renders material gains worthless, the Islamic revolution has offered a new civilization based on Islam which meets the spiritual and material needs of mankind. However, the world of arrogance is still unable or unwilling to understand the lofty aspirations and objectives of this revolution; and because the holy system of Islam is based on religion and religious beliefs, they oppose it with all their might.

Our president described the recent remarks by the U.S. secretary of state as an example of world arrogance's blind confrontation with Islamic Iran, adding: The rude and hasty approach by the leaders of a superpower that claims to be creating a new world order and the way its allies have joined in in unison on an issue about which it lacks proof attests to the unity and coordination of the faction of blasphemy in mounting a propaganda onslaught against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The second characteristic that has led to a reaction by the faction of blasphemy and arrogance against Islamic Iran is Iran's spectacular economic progress in the industrial, agricultural, and commercial fields. These advances have been achieved in spite of the immense obstructions that have been and are still being used against Iran in important economic fields—from the planned drop in oil prices to the imposition of technological sanctions against Iran, as well as efforts to harm Iran's economic relations with its neighbors and friendly countries. All these instruments have been used to prevent our country's economic growth. However, thanks to the Iranian people's efforts, the country has taken long steps which nobody expected.

Referring to the recent inauguration of the immense petrochemical complex at Imam Khomeyni port, our president said that this is proof of the nation's successes in the economic field at a time when the foreign experts of the project considered its implementation to be impossible.

These immense gains of the people in the spiritual, political, and economic fields place a heavy responsibility on the diplomatic representatives of our country, who must place these great gains of the Islamic revolution at the disposal of the deprived nations and show them to world public opinion in order to counter the wave of lies that enemies have launched against our country.

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Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri Addresses Diplomats

LD0308182894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri in a meeting with the heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic missions abroad, said: We, as the mother-of-all-cities [umm ol-qora'] of the world of Islam, must have a feeling of pride and power. The Majles speaker added: The creation of the spirit of aspiring Islam [eslam-khahi] and the advent of the movement of revival of Islam is a phenomenon which has been created through the blessing of the Islamic Revolution and the world faces this as a serious phenomenon.

Referring to the world of communications and the new means of cultural onslaught in the world, the Majles speaker said: An aspect of cultural development in the world and the means of cultural onslaught is the satellite and next to that, the exchange of information and the news bombardment and wave-making which affects the thoughts of human beings. We must have plans and programs to confront that phenomenon.

Nateq-Nuri considered the safeguarding of Islamic and revolutionary values as well as national security and the development of the state to be some of the country's foreign policy objectives and said: In today's complicated world we must have objectives, taking into consideration our ideology and school of thought. Such objectives concern the safeguarding of Islamic values, safeguarding of the national security, and arrangements for the development of the country—which are all part and parcel of each other.

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program at 1930 GMT on 3 August reports on the address adding: "According to Mr. Nateq-Nuri, America only claims to be the sole axis after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. He said: Based on the idea of being the absolute power in the world, America began to make a show of power but Europe stood up to that domineering and took steps toward the creation of a strong alliance. It can be said that the disintegration of the Soviet Union somehow paved the way in its wake for the decline of America.

"He added: After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, favorable and appropriate grounds became available for establishing relations with the newly independent former Soviet states."]

Qazvin Residents Protest Rejection of Province Status

LD0308124294 Tehran IRNA in English 1224 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—The residents of Qazvin, 130 km west of here, staged a demonstration in front of the house of the city's Friday prayer leader Wednesday, demanding that their city be turned into a province. A motion calling for changing Qazvin into a province was rejected by the Majles today.

The demonstrators requested the Friday prayer leader, local officials and their representatives to the Majles to convey their demand to the Iranian authorities. Meanwhile, an Interior Ministry official announced here Wednesday that the ministry has been informed of the demand of the people of Qazvin and that the request would be reviewed.

Ministry To Investigate

LD0308141894 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Qazvin, Zanjan Prov, Aug. 3, IRNA—A delegation from the Interior Ministry headed by Gholam-Hoseyn Bolandian, personal envoy of the Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati was to arrive here Wednesday afternoon to examine the request of Qazvini people.

A group of people gathered in front of the house of Qazvin's Friday prayer leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Barikbin, renewing their demand that Qazvin be turned into a province. Hojjat ol-Eslam Barikbin called on the people to raise their demand within the legal process and follow it up through legal sources. He also urged the people to obseve the law.

The Majles in its session today rejected the plan to turn Qazvin into a province. Qazvin, 130 kms northwest of tehran, is a town of Zanjan Province. According to the latest census, Zanjan Province has 1,774,000 population and Qazvin covering its central districts including Boin Zahra, Abyek, Alamut, Rudbar, and Takestan and Oaj towns has more than 754,000 population.

Protesters End Sit-In

LD0308191694 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Qazvin (Zanjan Province), Aug. 3, IRNA—A group of people demanding Majles approval for turning Qazvin into a new province ended their sit-in in front of the residence of Qazvin's Friday prayer leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Barikbin.

A law enforcement official told IRNA that the representatives of the people held face to face talks with the special envoy of the Interior Ministry, Gholam-Hussein Bolandian and informed him about their demand.

A resident of Qazvin said that the people ended their sit-in in response to a call by their Friday prayer leader Hojjat ol-Eslam Barikbin and will push for their demand through legal avenues.

Bolandian thanked the people for ending the gathering and assured that he would report their demand to the relevant officials in Tehran.

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Hours after overriding a bill by Majlis today to designate Qazvin as a new province, the people here gathered in front of the house of the city's Friday prayer leader to voice their demands.

Qazvin Moved to Tehran Province

LD0408100394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we draw your attention to a report we have just received. A few moments ago, Interior Minister Besharati contacted the Central News Unit to announce that as of today Qazvin township has been separated from Zanjan Province and has become part of Tehran Province.

AFP Reports Shooting; 4 Dead

NC0408115594 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Tehran, Aug 4 (AFP)—At least four people were killed and around 50 wounded in clashes Thursday between demonstrators and security forces in the industrial city of Qazvin, west of the Iranian capital, witnesses said.

Violence erupted in the city, 140 kilometers (90 miles) from Tehran, after the Iranian parliament on Wednesday rejected a call for the creation of a new province with Qazvin as the capital.

Witnesses contacted by telephone said anti-riot police fired at the crowd in the main street Vali-e-Asr as around 30,000 people took part in a demonstration.

"Anti-riot forces are deployed throughout the city," they said.

Helmeted riot police wielding truncheons dispersed groups of demonstrators and the sound of gunfire could still be heard mid- afternoon.

Protesters had earlier surrounded a police station in the city centre where shops and the bazaar were closed. Shop windows had been smashed by stones.

At least 20 people were wounded and dozens more arrested in initial clashes after the parliamentary vote on Wednesday. Demonstrators set fire to cars and buses, and police shot in the air.

Qazvin, which was the country's capital in the 1920s and is now among the most industrialised cities in Iran, is currently part of Zanjan province.

The residents in Qazvin however have been pushing to break away from the province and become independent. [passage omitted]

The parliamentary vote was seen as a political set-back for Rafsanjani's government which had pressed for the creation of a new province.

During the debate in parliament, several MPs said the crisis in the city, with a population of one million, was political because its residents did not want to live under the authority of another province.

Iran is currently made up of 25 provinces.

Cabinet Briefed on Ministries' Performance

LD0308211994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] In its Wednesday session, the cabinet praised the hardworking forces of the Ministry of Information and the Hezbollah Umma for their vigilance and meticulousness in identifying and arresting the Monafeqin [hypocrites—refers to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] elements who planted bombs at the immaculate shrine.

At the session, which was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Minister of Information Fallahian briefed the cabinet on the method of identification and arrest of the Monafeqan [synonym for Monafeqin]. The cabinet stressed the need for continuation of the efforts by the Ministry of Information in confronting disruptive and hypocrite elements.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, the minister of heavy industries briefed the cabinet on the performance of the car industry under the first economic, social, and cultural development plan.

During the cabinet meeting, Minister of Roads and Transport Torkan also briefed the cabinet on demurrage, the expense incurred because of the delay in unloading ships in our country's ports, and said: The amount paid as a reward for speeding up unloading is $3.1 million.

In his brief, the minister of roads and transport pointed out: The gross demurrage incurred as a result of marine operations [as heard] has decreased to almost nothing; the amount of loading and unloading at ports has increased to the level of the well-equipped ports in the world.

Majles Begins 30-Day Recess 17 August

LD0308124894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] As you heard earlier in the news bulletin, Majles deputies today debated a bill to harmonize the system of salary payment to pensioners and agreed to increase the rate of some pensions. [passage omitted]

In today's open session of the Majles, 'Ali 'Abbaspur, a Majles deputy from Tehran, was appointed as the procurement and supply officer and a member of the executive committee of the Majles.

According to our correspondent's report, the Majles deputies will start debating the first reading of the second development plan bill in next Monday's [8 August] open session. After the first reading, the Majles will start its 30-day summer recess on 26th Mordad [17 August].

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Opposition Leader Claims Forces 'Ready To Attack'

BR0408133294 Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA in Italian 10 Aug 94 pp 54-59

[Article by Carlo Remeny including remarks to foreign journalists "for the first time since 1986" by Masud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council and commander in chief of the Iranian National Liberation Army: "We Will Bring Maryam to Tehran"]

[Text] "Maryam, bright moon, we will carry you to Tehran on our shoulders." "Khomeyni's winter is about to end; Maryam's spring is about to burst forth." It was already past midnight, but the car that was supposed to take us back to Baghdad from the Ashraf base could not move. It was blocked by a huge crowd of troops of the Iranian National Liberation Army singing praises to Maryam Rajavi, president of the republic appointed by the resistance, currently in exile in Paris.

There was an explosion of rhythmic chants, hand clapping, and brandishing of red handkerchiefs. The multitude of "sisters" (as the female soldiers of ther Liberation Army are known, in accordance with Islamic observance) and "brothers" were still under the influence of the message from the supreme leader of the resistance, Masud Rajavi, broadcast over the radio: "You must bring Maryam to Tehran, by tooth and nail."

Meanwhile Maryam is issuing is issuing her own appeals for a rising against the ayatollahs' regime on the resistance television service, which broadcasts from the Iraqi capital, covering a band of territory extending 150-200 km into Iran. The radio broadcasts, transmitted from Ashraf, are even more successful, and reach every corner of Persia. "Ashraf is almost as large as the Netherlands," one of our hosts told us, jokingly.

We were in the headquarters of the anti-Khomeyni armed forces, some 90 km north of Baghdad. The base has an avenue for parades, with a platform for the authorities, hundreds of houses for the troops, armored vehicles, ammunition, and a cemetery for fallen resistance members. There is an interminable network of intersecting roads, labeled in Persian and English. All around there are antiaircraft batteries hidden by ramparts. Access to it is gained by a huge anonymous gate, entirely unmarked. Ashraf is the name of Masud Rajavi's first wife, murdered in Tehran by the pasdaran, the "Islamic revolutionary guards."

Three years after the Gulf war Iraq is still an enigma. Within this context the Iranian resistance is another enigma. It has the largest irregular army in the world and is, moreover, the guest of a foreign country. Since 1986 Rajavi has conducted the struggle against the Tehran regime from Baghdad. Here his people's mojahedin, the largest faction of the Iranian resistance, are a state within a state. Even though Rajavi stresses total independence from the Iraqi Government, it is clear that the Iranian opposition's activity is directly dependent on Saddam Husayn's approval.

The Iranian resistance command, in the heart of Baghdad, is an outright fortress: With its forest of antennas on the roof, it looks more like CIA headquarters than the headquarters of an opposition movement in exile. The road to the building is controlled directly by Iranian partisans. Here last winter a Turkish diplomat was shot down by a burst of machine-gun fire by a mojahedin because his car carried Iranian license plates and the guard thought he was a spy for Tehran. In fact the Turk had just bought the car from a member of staff at the Iranian embassy and had not yet changed the plates.

One diplomatic source revealed to us that the road from the Iraqi capital to the northeastern border crossing with Iran, which passes close to Ashraf, is controlled by Iranian resistance troops, who set up regular road blocks for through traffic in the midst of Iraqi territory. But when Iranian diplomats in Baghdad return home along that road, having given the Iraqi authorities prior notification, as is obligatory, the mojahedin disappear. And obviously the orders come directly from the Iraqi authorities.

One European ambassador reckoned the liberation army's three divisions to comprise 20,000-30,000 men. Certainly, during the 2,000 American air raids on Iraq during the 1991 war the U.S. fighter bombers never hit either the barracks (apart from Ashraf and the headquarters in Baghdad, there are others along the border with Iran) or the weapons of the Iranian resistance in Iraqi territory. They had orders to spare them, though the mojahedin's relations with the Bush Administration were hardly idyllic. A definite improvement of relations with the United States has occurred since Mr. Clinton's accession to the White House. However, Iran has tried to attack Ashraf three times—with air raids in 1992 and 1993 and eight months ago with mortars used by a commando unit that infiltrated north of Baghdad.

Relations between Iran and Iraq remain precarious. Eight years of war (1980-1988), a million deaths, the prisoners of war—whose existence both sides deny but whom the Red Cross suspects do exist - the tension between the Iraqi Shiites supposed by Iran and the Saddam Husayn government, the support granted by each government to the Kurds resident on the other's territory, the refuge granted by Tehran to the Iraqi opposition, and the hospitality granted by Baghdad to the Iranian resistance are preventing relations from returning to normal.

Then there is the unresolved issue of the over 100 Iraqi aircraft that found refuge in Iran during the Gulf war and that Tehran has always refused to return, considering them compensation for the war damage suffered. The Iraqi Government is also worried about religious fanaticism spreading from Iran, affecting an Iraqi society humiliated and reduced to poverty by the international embargo and which could seek refuge in Islamic fundamentalism. Last, there are the ambiguities of the major powers, which in the eighties were pro-Iraqi but now give priority to relations with Tehran.

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From Khomeyni to the current president, Rafsanjani, the people's mojahedin have always been considered the Islamic Republic's number one enemy. After the 20 June attack in the holy city of Mashad, which claimed dozens of lives and which the Iranian authorities attributed to the mojahedin, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati's planned visit to Baghdad was canceled as a protest against Iraq's support for the resistance movement. A number of Iraqi diplomats were expelled from Tehran for the same reason, and Iran complains of constant border violations by the mojahedin.

Support for the Iranian resistance is important to Saddam Husayn for two reasons: because the mojahedin conduct diplomatic activity in favor of the abolition of the embargo against Iraq and because they enjoy considerable financial resources ($45 million gathered between 1989 and 1992 and $15 million spent in Iraq alone in 1993) originating from wealthy Persian emigres (of whom there are 4 million scattered around the world) and from members of the Tehran bazaar and industrialists and traders resident in Iran.

Furthermore, the opposition has established a very flourishing network of international companies trading in carpets, gold, and automobiles. There is also talk about substantial finance from Saudi sources. At the latest Saddam-Rajavi summit in January the Iraqi president said that the safety of members of the Iranian resistance is a priority for his country.

For the first time since 1986 Rajavi, who is chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council and commander in chief of the Liberation Army, received a group of eight foreign journalists (one from FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA representing Italy.) "Since 1979 Tehran has been condemned by the United Nations 31 times for human rights violations," he told us. "With 100,000 people murdered by the Khomeyni regime, we are left with no choice other than the armed struggle. We have been accused successively of being servants of the Soviet Union, the United States, and Israel. Our resistance is completely independent of other countries. Without strong social support in Iran, we would already have been eliminated. We call for an international embargo against Tehran on oil and weapons sales. But what point is there in continuing the embargo against Iraq? Which is the real source of instability in the region? The Iran of the mullahs exports terrorism throughout the world."

The head of the Resistance Council's Foreign Affairs Committee, Mohammed Mohaddessin, ventured to suggest that "20 percent of the embargo adopted against Iraq would be enough to overthrow the Islamic regime in Tehran." Rajavi concluded: "Our army is ready to attack at any time, obviously keeping in mind the international context. The mullahs' regime has discredited freedom, democracy, and Islam. Khomeyni has set the country back 50 years. To be in Tehran next summer is a dream, but sometimes dreams come true."

Many Russian-Manufactured Weapons

When we took our leave Rajavi's shirt collar was soaked in the foundation cream that had run down his face during the long hours of the interview. The guard of honor of the people's mojahedin presented arms to the group of journalists as they left the Iranian resistance headquarters in Baghdad at 0200 hours. Attachment to Islam and the elevation of the role of women are Rajavi's strategic weapons. Women constitute 30 percent of the armed forces and 50 percent of members of the resistance parliament, as well as having in Maryam Rajavi, Masud's wife, the possible future president of the republic.

In a semi-desert area of the Jabal-Hamrin region, a few dozen kilometers from the Iranian border, in a stifling temperature of at least 50 degrees, we witnessed the closing stages of the "Freedom Phoenix" military exercise, the largest ever organized by the Iranian opposition armed forces. It involved a mechanized division with over 100 tanks, hundreds of guns, mortars, track-laying armored vehicles, and trucks, under the orders of Masud Rajavi and the deputy supreme commander, Mrs. Ozra Alavi Taleqani.

The quantity of weapons deployed—mainly of Russian manufacture—was amazing. The official story is that the materiel was captured from the Iranian regular armed forces during major operations carried out by the Liberation Army in Persian territory in 1988. According to authoritative diplomatic sources in Baghdad, however, the weapons are of Iranian provenance, the Iraqi Army's booty sold or leased to Rajavi's resistance army. Nor is the possibility ruled out that the people's mojahedin import limited quantities of them into Iraq, despite the embargo.

Rohije Abbasi, 31, mother of four, and married to an army officer, commands a motorized brigade. She is entitled to shared quarters with her husband in the Ashraf camp, but she has left her children with relatives living in Europe. She admits that she has sacrificed her feelings to the liberation war: "I have been in the armed resistance for 14 years": Her oldest daughter is 14. The liberation army is composed solely of volunteers. Many of them spent time in Iranian prisons before leaving the country clandestinely and coming here. Others are emigres.

Many of them are former students—some at university in France, some in the United States, some in Bologna [Italy] such as Bijan Mohiti, some in L'Aquila [Italy] such as Mezbah Meran—both of the latter in the engineering faculty. Now they await Rajavi's order to attack Iran to overthrow the religious dictatorship. Asked whether this is imminent, they reply with a Persian proverb: "It is not important when the fish is caught; the important thing is that once you have caught it it is fresh." But can a resistance movement that lives under the protection of a country that many Iranians consider hostile hope for the support of the population that it says it wants to liberate, or does it risk being treated as a puppet of the enemy?

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Pakistan

Editorial Views New Trade Policy

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[Editorial: "New Trade Policy"]

[Text] With the remodelling of the tariff structure in the 1994-95 budget, the obligations assumed by Pakistan under the Marrakesh treaty, and the progress of deregulation of the economy initiated some years ago, trade policy has lost much of its pre-eminence. The ritual announcement of the policy by the commerce minister the other day was, therefore, a lacklustre event. The policy has fixed the current year's target of export at 7.83 billion dollars and that of import at 9.75 billion dollars. The achievement of the export target, which is 16 per cent higher than the last year's, will depend largely on favourable weather, attainment of 1991-92 level in cotton output, improvement in the power and law and order situation as well as acceleration of economic recovery in the West. The minister was optimistic about the prospects of cotton. Contrary to the widely held belief that cotton had been affected by the curl leaf virus, the minister said that it was the victim of drought during the last two years. Since the monsoon this year has started on time and is forecast to be fairly good, the cotton crop is expected to be much better. This makes the realisation of the projected export target fairly certain.

The policy takes deregulation and liberalisation a step forward. Commercial banks have been authorised to condone import policy contraventions in specified cases; import authorisation once issued will remain valid for the currency of the policy; imports on the basis of invoice have been allowed; import of second-hand machinery and all registered pesticides is permitted; and the RMR [expansion unknown] scheme is further simplified by dispensing with the condition of keeping the imported items in the customs bond.

To encourage the establishment and modernisation of export industries and thereby boost exports, 17 industries have been identified for receiving concessions in the form of reduced customs duty and zero rate of sales tax for import of machinery and raw materials.

Despite strained relations with India, certain raw materials and machinery parts have been added to the existing list of 571 items importable from that country. These are raw materials and intermediate products for dyes and parts of drilling rigs. Under the Uruguay Round both India and Pakistan are obliged to reduce and finally eliminate discriminatory trade practices against each other.

While encouragement of import of machinery at concessional rates for identified export industries would be welcomed, an appraising watch needs to be maintained in respect of effects such a policy is likely to have on the domestic engineering industry. This industry faces a threat of collapse in the face of trade liberalisation and tariff reduction. In the changed circumstances, the government needs to devise a comprehensive policy for the engineering industry if a viable industrialisation process is to be maintained. While liberal import of all tractors, allowed under the new policy, would be welcomed by the agriculturists, it may do long-term damage to the domestic industry whose capacity still remains underutilised.

The most controversial provision of the trade policy is the permission given to foreign firms to enter import business which had so far remained the exclusive preserve of the local traders. How far the government was under obligation to take this step as a consequence of the Uruguay Round commitment and for what quid pro quo is not clear. On the face of it, the decision will adversely affect the local importers who are weaker in finances, technology, supply sources and sales outlets than their likely competitors. However, it may be said in favour of the decision that since the economy is being opened up under pressure of the integrated global trading system, one of its sectors can not perhaps be kept closed any longer. Despite its inevitability, however, the opening should have come gradually.

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